

The
Irish People

Their
Height · Form ·
And
Strength ·

F. EDMUND NOGAN, S.J.
O. LIT. FR. U. I.

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THE IRISH PEOPLE

THEIR HEIGHT, FORM, AND STRENGTH

BY
F. EDMUND HOGAN, S.J.
D.LITT., F.R.U.I.

“I never saw a finer country” (than Ireland), “or, to speak my mind, a finer people” (than the Irish).

*Letter from Ireland by SIR WALTER SCOTT to
JOHANNA BAILIE in the year 1825*

Doichum Glóire Dé agus Onóra na hÉirenn,

Preface to the Four Masters

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Dublin

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TO THE MEMBERS
OF THE GAELIC LEAGUE
AT
HOME AND ABROAD
I RESPECTFULLY DEDICATE
THIS BOOK.

EDMUND HOGAN.



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PREFACE.



THE evidence as to the fine physical form of Irishmen, set forth in this book, has been put together with a view to the enlightenment, or edification, or comfort of various classes of people, such as:—the members of the Irish race all over the world; those who take a kindly or curious interest in that race; students of Irish History; writers on the History of Man; comparative anatomists; comparative anthropologists and ethnologists; monogenists and polygenists; gentlemen of the Press, of the Cartoon and the Platform; people “in another place;” “the man in the street;” and lastly, those who dislike “the policy of pinpricks and of unfriendly acts,” and deem it a safe and sound policy to keep “the open door” to amity and friendly intercourse between the “Predominant Partner,” and the Irish of the United Kingdom and of the United States.

Unfortunately, some years ago, when this

book was compiled, the Predominant Partner, notwithstanding his detestation of pinpricks, unfriendly acts and closed doors, and in spite of his delicate "conscience, nonconformist" and otherwise, pursued this policy towards the Irish race in the United Kingdom, the United States and everywhere. While plundering Irishmen of millions of money as his own Financial Relations' Report testifies, he treated them "with studied depreciation, derision. contempt, gross and wholesale insult;" and, as De Lasteyrie wrote in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*,* "his tone towards the Irish was execrable."

Through love of making money, or of winning applause, by trading on his ignorant and innocent self-conceit, or through hatred or fear of the Irish, his serious and comic Press, his popular writers, playactors, orators, and caricaturists conspired to gorge him with misrepresentations of Irishmen, knowing or believing that he liked it. It was not for mere wantonness or fun that the cartoonists of *Punch* "invariably represented the Irishman as of a

* December 15, 1854.

low savage type." They took as their model the very lowest type of the Englishman, adorned him with a tattered coat, kneebreeches, a battered hat, a clay pipe, a shillelah, and presented him as a typical native of Ireland, The Predominant Partner, of course, made endless fun of such a droll figure, and, while devoting himself to the complacent survey of his own immaculate and irreproachable person, prayed thus within himself: "O God, I give Thee thanks, that I am not as the Hirishman."

His "cousins," the Knownothings of America, dutifully followed "The Mother Country" in this unholy and unwholesome - crusade of calumny and insult, and their *Puck* and other comic papers surpassed in savagery even the odious caricatures of the *Punch* of other days.

Abundant proofs of this malevolence and malignity are given in our First Chapter, which may not be pleasant reading to Englishmen. Many, perhaps most of them, have a kindly feeling towards Ireland, and I am glad to hear that this feeling is growing as time goes on. I spent nearly three years among the English, and I do not remember having ever heard an

unfriendly word against my native land. I wish I could say the same of certain "Irishmen" to be found in Ireland.

Again, I fear, some Irishmen at home and abroad may neither be pleased at my republishing those revilings and calumnies, nor thankful for my refutation of them. They may remind me that "he that reproacheth the scorner getteth to himself shame;" and that, as Ireland has ever scowled at and defied the persecution of the tyrant, she should now treat his scorn with contemptuous equanimity. To such of my countrymen I would say, that, if such matters were between Irishmen and those that "hate them and calumniate them," dignified silence might be allowable, perhaps. But, as Mr. Lecky says, "the character of a nation is its most precious inheritance," and as the above quoted calumnies are current and believed in foreign lands by people friendly, or not unfriendly, to Ireland, and are repeated in austere books of science, and are echoed in the public lecture-halls of Europe and America, I have deemed it right and proper to rebuke and sweep them away; and, for so doing, I

am sure I shall be applauded by true Irishmen. It is well that, as a bishop, so, in some measure, a people should "have good testimony from them who are without, lest they should fall into reproach,"

"Good name in man or woman, dear my lord,
Is the immediate jewel of their souls."

When people "filch from us our good name and make us poor indeed," by libels on our moral, mental, and physical characteristics, it is not enough "to lie low," or to "hang our heads for shame," or to meet the reviler merely with the scorn of scorn, or with strenuous denials, or by "letting ourselves go" in various forms of the ninth part of speech, or by a strong and long-drawn interjection, such as this of the Sage of Chelsea in presence of a gross fabrication:—"That a son of Adam should venture on constructing so majestic a piece of *blague*, and hang it out dexterously, like the moon itself, on nothing—there is in this a kind of sublimity, that strikes us silent, as if we had a glimpse of the ancient reign of Chaos and Nox! Miraculous Mahomet, Apollonius with the Golden Thigh, Mendez Pinto, Münchausen,

Cagliostro, Psalmanazer, seem but botches in comparison.”*

Let an Irishman do all that, if he is satisfied to do so. He believes, rightly or wrongly, that man for man he is better than the Englishman. In 1614, George Carew, Lord President of Munster and Earl of Totnes, wrote, “The Irish do conceive that their men are better than ours, they have the same bodies they ever had, and therein they had and have the advantage of us.” And in 1899 they have the same conceit. According to *The Westminster Gazette*, of January 26, 1899, “When a sub-inspector was hearing a class of London-Irish boys repeat Macaulay’s ‘Horatius,’ he inquired whether three soldiers would be likely nowadays to hold a bridge against a whole army. ‘Would three Englishmen, for example?’ he said. ‘No, sir!’ said the class. ‘Would three Scotchmen?’ They again dissented. ‘Would three Irishmen?’ ‘Please, sir,’ shouted an excitable little fellow, ‘one Irishman would do it!’”

This “Irish idea” finds utterance in a speech made by the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, on

* Carlyle on the sinking of the *Vengeur*.

the 2nd of March, 1895, at the banquet of the Ulster Association in London. He said: "Irish women had been noted from all time for two qualities—beauty and virtue. They had certainly impregnated the English race with their beauty, because there had scarcely ever been an English family remarkable for its beauty that that beauty could not be traced to an Irish source. As to their second quality, he did not know what success they might have met with, but at all events by their example they had done their best to propagate it."

Into that interesting field of comparative anthropology I have no desire to intrude. I do not here claim for my countrymen any physical pre-eminence over other races. If by my book I encourage this "Irish idea," and enable Irishmen "to justify the faith that is in them," by the unimpeachable and unanswerable evidence of Englishmen and other foreigners, that is not my direct object. I mean not to exalt Irishmen, but to defend them against shameless and systematic calumny; to prove that they are not like "Hottentots," or the "veriest savages on the face of the earth," or "like baboons," or the

savage caricatures of *Punch*, or “the lowest races of Australia.”* Confining myself, for the present, to the physical form of the men, women, and children of the Irish race I prove, firstly, by the linked testimonies of fifty-one Englishmen, six Frenchmen, three Italians, and two Spaniards, that the Irish are dowered with nature’s gifts in as high a degree as any people on earth; and secondly, by the testimony of ninety competent witnesses, that the peasants of Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim, who have been cruelly maligned, are a fine race of men.

Such is the scope of this book; nothing more, nothing less. From some suggestions of my friends I gather, that Irish readers will be disappointed and displeased if I do not pay the English back in their own coin, and if I do not treat of Irish giants. But I am not a pressman or caricaturist, and justice and charity forbid me to disparage a people who, individually, are well-built and good-natured, and cannot be held responsible for the crimes or sins of certain sections of the British Press. And as to the giants, it is known and admitted that,

* See the First Chapter.

as Ireland is the land of the Giant's Causeway, of the giant elk,* and of gigantic wolthounds,† so it is the cradle of gigantic men. "A large proportion of the giants are Irish;" the biggest skeletons in the world are those of Irishmen,‡ and the tallest man in the British army is an Irishman, named McCullagh. On this subject I have made some researches, and I have at my disposal the notes of Mr. W. F. O'Donovan, LL.D., Father O'Nowlan, S.J., F.R.U.I., and Father Russell, Editor of the *Irish Monthly*; but, as the matter is outside the scope of my work, I cannot deal with it.

EDMUND HOGAN.

FEAST OF ST. BRIGIT, 1899,
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, ST. STEPHEN'S GREEN, DUBLIN.

* Dr. Römer in *N. Jahrbuch f. Mineralogie and Palæontologie*, of 1877.

† See my *History of the Irish Wolfdog*.

‡ *English Cyclopædia*, ed. of Bradbury, Art. "Giant," col. 1137; and *Chambers' Encyclopædia*, Art. "Giants."



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THE IRISH PEOPLE.



CHAPTER I.

THE IRISH PEOPLE PERSISTENTLY LIBELLED.

4. The prevalence of libels on the Irish people will appear from the following statements and protests:—

(1.) DEAN SWIFT says:—"I have seen the grossest suppositions passed upon the English, such as that the wild Irish were taken in toils, but in some time would grow so tame as to eat out of your hand; and upon the arrival of an Irishman in a country town I have known crowds coming about him wondering to see him look so much better than themselves."*

(2.) In the early part of this century calumnies were so often uttered against the Irish Catholic peasantry as to call for indignant protests from Irish Protestant members of both Houses of Parliament.

* Swift's *Works*, vol. viii., p. 135.

For instance, General Montagu Matthew said in the House of Commons:—"The person who should say so (against the Irish people), did not deserve to live, but to die by the hand of the common executioner. The right hon. gentleman talks of atrocities! Never had more atrocities been committed by the most desperate despot than by the British Government. I would tell Earl Camden that if ever there was tyranny in any country, it was in Ireland under the administration of that noble lord." Being called to order, Matthew said:—"Then I must give up the year 1798, the scalping, and all the rest."*

(3.) In 1805, General Lord Hutchinson of Alexandria, an Irishman, who, with soldiers chiefly Irishmen, drove the French army out of Egypt, said in the House of Lords:—"Assertions have been made in this House to calumniate and traduce the character of my Catholic countrymen, which, if uttered anywhere else, I should not hesitate to pronounce most unfounded calumnies. They are as brave, as generous a people as any on earth; their virtues are peculiarly their own, their faults are not the faults of their nature, but of those laws under whose baneful operation they have suffered. . . . I call upon the noble lord to retract an assertion so un-

* Speech in House of Commons, Jan. 31, 1809.

founded ; and I call upon every noble lord in this House from that kingdom to rise in his place, and vindicate from the aspersions of the noble lord his calumniated and insulted country.”*

(4.) The Earl of Ormond rose and said :—“ My lords, I cannot sit silent and hear the country to which I have the honour to belong so foully traduced without rising in my place to contradict such unfounded aspersions upon the national character of Ireland.”

(5.) George Ponsonby said during those debates in the House of Commons :—“ Sir, never was there so foul a misrepresentation and so gross a calumny as this against the Irish Catholics ; there never was a race of men in Europe who would preserve so much of what is good under so much oppression. I know them well, and I know, at the same time, that whatever there is good in them they owe to themselves ; whatever there is bad in them they owe to you—yes, sir, I will say it, it is owing entirely to your bad government. . . . I have heard arguments in this House from which one would be led to think that some men were sent here only to circulate calumnies against, and to draw the most odious pictures of, the character of our common country.”

* Cobbett's *Parliamentary Debates*, vol. xii., p. 234.

(6.) Of one of those gentlemen who “drew such odious pictures,” Thomas Moore wrote in the *Fudge Family*:—

“And on he went in iligant style,
 Blasphaming us Catholics all the while
 As a pack of deceavers, perjurers, villians—
 All the whole kit of the aforesaid millions—
 Yourself, dear Judy, as well as the rest,
 And the innocent craythur that’s at your breast.
 Och! och! had you heard such a purty remark as
 his,
 That Papists are only Humanity’s carcasses,
 Risen, but bedad, I’m afeared I can’t give it ye,
 Risen from the sepulchre of inactivity,
 And like ould corpses dug up from antiquity,
 Wandrin’ about in all sorts of iniquity.”*

(7.) From America comes another protest.† At the County Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians at Montreal in December, 1894, it was:—

“Resolved—That, firmly believing, as Christians and Catholics, that the Almighty God in His wisdom created man an intelligent being capable of knowing and serving Him, and whereas many theatrical performers and others pandering to the depraved tastes of certain portions of the community scurrilously burlesque and belittle the Irish character, and whereas writers for many alleged comic publications

* Ninth Letter of the *Fudge Family in England*.

† Quoted in *Dublin Evening Mail*, Dec. 11, 1894.

are in the habit, by their effusions and cartoons, of venting their miserable sectarian hate and bigotry on a race that for learning, culture, and broad liberality, stands the peer of any nationality or people on earth:

“Resolved—That we, as Hibernians, protest against this caricaturing of the Irish race, and we appeal to our fellow-citizens, without distinction of race, colour, or creed, to unite with us in eradicating this miserable burlesquing of any of God’s creatures, by refraining from patronising any publication, theatrical or other entertainments, guilty of such low and contemptible vulgarity.”

(8.) Mr. Lecky, in *Leaders of Public Opinion in Ireland*, thus protests:—“It is not possible for any patriotic Irishman to contrast without emotion the tone which has been adopted towards his country by some of the most eminent writers of France with the studied depreciation of the Irish character by some of the most popular authors, and by a large section of the Press of England. The character of a nation is its most precious possession, and it is to such writers as de Montalembert and Gustave de Beaumont that it is mainly due that Ireland has still many sympathisers on the Continent.”

(9.) The *Conservative Tablet* says:—“That speech, barren of everything but words, wanton and wounding, may have won for Lord Salisbury a cheap and a noisy triumph. The temptation to barter flouts

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and jibes and jeers for the momentary music of a partisan applause has been too strong for him. Vainly seeking some compensating comfort for its inevitable evil, we find insults and exasperating words in abundance; the most hideous crimes laid indiscriminately at the door of a whole people, and proposals for legislation made in jest, apparently for no other reason than because the mere mention of them is likely to arouse resentment and bitterness—such things are fit only for a selfish and reckless chief of political bandits.”

(10.) Lord Dalhousie, in a speech at Liverpool in February, 1886, said:—“ By our half-conquest of the country and our failure to assimilate and unite the Irish people with ourselves, and to give them a full measure of National life, as well as by our violent and spasmodic interference in their affairs, we prevented, during a long period of centuries, the normal growth and development of the Irish character. Is it, then, I ask, a wonderful thing that they should hate us to-day, when we not merely prevented their material progress, but defrauded them of the due development of what is to a nation of incomparably greater value, namely, the moral and intellectual qualities that go to make up the fabric of a sterling national character? For nearly a century the laws

were such that, to an Irishman, apostacy in religion was the very first rung in youth's ambitious ladder ; yet some sections of the English people and the English Press are never tired of adding to this injury the insult of holding up the Irish to derision and contempt. If the Irish are behind us in any way—and in some respects they are vastly our superiors—it is because our forefathers prevented them during long centuries from developing the God-given qualities with which nature has endowed them."

(11.) Mr. Gladstone, as quoted by the present Duke of Devonshire,* said:—"Ireland's woeful history for centuries emboldens some of us to treat her as if she had but a limited share in the great inheritance of human right, and none at all in the ordinary privilege of immunity from gross and wholesale insult."

B. Instances of those insulting libels:—

(1) Lord Salisbury in a speech compared the Irish to Hottentots, and by so doing drew from Mr. Gladstone, Lord Dalhousie, and his own supporter, the *Tablet*, the indignant protests which we have just quoted. I have looked in the files of the *Times* for his Lordship's very words, and could not find them ;

* In his speech, May 11th, 1886 : the date of Mr. Gladstone's speech was, I believe, April 13th, 1886.

but in Mr. Gladstone's pamphlet of August 27th, 1886, they are referred to thus:—"We hear no more of *Hottentots*." They are also referred to in a speech of 13th April, 1886, by Sir Wilfrid Lawson, who said:—"Mr. Smith was in Ireland only twenty-four hours, and he must have telegraphed back to the Government, because they took action so quickly they could not have a letter in that time. I fancy the telegram was something like this:—'Have discovered Ireland, found it inhabited with *Hottentots*.'"

(2.) Pinkerton, a Scotchman, wrote that "the wild Irish are the veriest savages on the face of the earth."

(3.) Parker Gillmore is quoted in the *Saturday Review* of January 29, 1887, as stating in *The Hunter's Arcadia*:—"I am a Scotchman and a Celt: but all know that there is a wide divergence between the Celt of Scotland and the Celt of Ireland. I have *carefully* studied those differences; coming to no hasty conclusion, and giving due weight to a matter which is worthy of more than ordinary observation, I find, that of all the races of human beings that I have become acquainted with, whether they be Digger Indians from the Rocky Mountains of Sonora, whether they be Kalmucks from the Steppes

of Siberia, or whether they be natives of the interior of Africa, none so much resemble the baboon as an Irishman."

(4.) *Punch*, as we are informed by its present Editor, Mr. Burnand, "invariably represented the turbulent Irishman as of a low savage type."* The other comic journals of England, and *Puck*, *Judge*, and the Knownothing comics of America rival the brutal savagery of *Punch*. And not to tire and disgust † the reader with those details, suffice it to say that voice, and pen, and pencil have done their worst to misrepresent the physical and moral characteristics of Irishmen.

(5.) Nearly all those libellers of whom we have spoken belonged to "a country which," according to Dean Swift, "would be glad to eat up our whole Nation without salt." But they are surpassed in audacity of assertion by a native of a land, the inhabitants of which are said by the English poet, Shenstone, to be

" Gifted beyond the entire human race
With matchless intrepidity of face."

This Irishman wrote in an Irish periodical, the

* *Fortnightly Review* of July, 1886, p. 58.

† In Dr. Knox's book *On Race*, p. 325, we are informed that "Civilized man cannot sink lower than at Derrynane and Skibbereen"!!!

Dublin University Magazine, a well-penned article, entitled "The Attractions of Ireland."* Of the peasants of parts of Ireland he had "the intrepidity of face" to say:—"Their open projecting mouths, with their prominent teeth and exposed gums, those high cheek-bones and depressed noses bear barbarism on their very front, and excite as much regret as astonishment that the first specimen of the purely native population met by the stranger should contrast so very disadvantageously with even the hard-featured peasantry of Down. On the plantation of Ulster, in 1641 and 1686, great multitudes of the native Irish were driven from Armagh and the south of Down into the Fews; just as on the other side of the kingdom the same race were expelled into Leitrim, Sligo and Mayo. Here they have been almost ever since exposed to the worst effects of hunger and ignorance, the two great brutalizers of the human race. . . . In Sligo and northern Mayo particularly, the consequences of two centuries of degradation and hardship exhibit themselves in the whole physical condition of the people, affecting not only the features but the frame; and giving such an example of deterioration from known causes as almost compensates by its value to future

* *Dublin Univ. Magazine*, Dec. 1836, pp. 658-675.

ages for the suffering and debasement that past generations have endured in perfecting its appalling lesson in the persons of their descendants. It is not necessary to travel out of Dublin to study in this school. From June till August our quays are a commodious class-room. A hundred professors of spare diet may here be found any day in the week, giving ocular demonstration of the effects of famine on the human frame and visage. Five feet two upon an average, pot-bellied, bow-legged, abortively featured . . . these spectres of a people that once were well grown, ablebodied, and comely, stalk abroad into the daylight of civilization, to fright the Sister Island with annual apparitions of Irish ugliness and Irish want."

(6.) This picture, as calumnious as it is graphic and forcible, had an extraordinary success. As Dr. Beddoe says,* "it has been quoted by every monogenist writer at home and abroad ever since." He might have added that it has been quoted by every polygenist writer also. Dr. Hall cites it in his introduction to Pickering's *Natural History of Man*.

(7.) A distinguished Frenchman, Bréau de Quatrefages, quotes it from Hall, and comments on it

* *Races of Britain*, pp. 27, 142, 298, 266, and vol. iii. of *Memoirs of the Anthropological Society*, p. 569, *et seq.* I don't know now the precise page.

thus:—"These two Irish groups, which are so different, that one reminds us of the very lowest tribes of Australia,"* and the other bears comparison with any of the white races, are they of the same race? No, we will say to Dr. Hall. The Irishman of the county Meath alone represents the ancient stock. The Irishman of the Fews,† subjected to quite different conditions of existence, has become altered, and has formed a new race, derived, indeed, from the first, but now in harmony with his deplorable environment. There are now in these neighbouring districts two races in place of one.‡

(8.) Herr Karl Vogt§ quotes Hall and Quatrefages, and remarks:—"Let us examine this point. And first we must remember that *party spirit speaks here*, painting the condition of the Irish in as gloomy colours as possible, and probably assuming some few ragged and broken-down beggars as the type of the whole race. But, assuming the description to be correct, it is so imperfect and defective that we can scarcely conceive how such a cautious writer as Quatrefages can find in it a description of

* *Rappelle les peuplades les plus inférieures de l' Australie.*

† The foreigners call this Fews in those sweeping assertions

‡ Quatrefages' *L' Unité de l' Espèce Humaine*, p. 227, ed. 1861. Devay believed, and quoted this fiction in his book, *Du Danger des Mariages Consanguins*.

§ Vogt's *Lectures on Man*, Lect. xv., pp. 427-429.

the Australian savage. No person has examined such a degenerate Irish skull, and shown how far it deviates from other Irish skulls, or approaches the characteristic form of the Australian skulls. The whole description resembles as closely, if not more so, that of the Semi-Crétins, as they are found by hundreds in poor mountainous districts. The projecting teeth, the pendulous belly, the thick noses, puffy lips, are always the attendants on scrofula, that widespread disease, which is produced by damp dwellings, bad food, want of care, and similar causes. That there has been degeneration in these poor creatures is unquestionable ;* but, as by proper care, the noble Andalusian horse may be developed from the little, rough, thick-bellied mustang, so may the emigrant from Sligo to America, by proper alimentation, be made to resemble, in his successors, the Irishmen of Meath."

(9.) Some years ago two Irishmen were present in Louvain at a public thesis, in which it was maintained that all the varieties (black, white, big, and dwarfish) could descend from one couple, Adam and Eve, since the people of Meath and those of Mayo, though of the same stock, are as different from each

* I question it, and so does Colonel Chichester, see p. 104. The Irish are a tough race.—E. H.

other as any human races could be, on account of the different media and environments in which they have lived for the last two hundred years.

The force of ill-nature could no further go, unless, perhaps, it stated as a fact well known to "Science" and "the Saxon," that the Irishman was adorned with a long tail, a prehensile hallux, tusk-like canine teeth, partially coherent fingers, a completely hairy back with a cross on it formed by the constant practice of making the Sign of the Cross on his breast and a bald præciput, rendered so by the copious application of holy water by himself and his progenitors. This fact would have been hailed with delight by "scientists," as a striking instance of *Atavism* and *Reversion* to long-dormant structures. Gillmore (No. 3 above), saw this dimly and suggested it; but as he was only "a Scotch Celt," his dull humour did not enable him to express his view in a graphic manner.

To defeat and overthrow this unholy alliance and scandalous conspiracy of *Punch*, *Puck*, Platform, and Press, would be difficult indeed. But to disprove the mendacities of those "Forgers" is an easy task. For that purpose it is not necessary to ransack old graveyards for bones and skulls, "grandiaque effossis mirabitur ossa sepulcris;" or to measure living specimens according to the methods

of Topinard and Virchow. To any fair-minded man, yea, to a mind preoccupied and haunted by the horrid caricatures of *Punch* and *Puck*, the worth, and wealth, and cumulative force of the evidence I am about to produce must bring home the following two conclusions:—

I. That, to borrow the words of the Elizabethan Captain, Barnaby Rich, “The Irish appear to every man’s eye to be of good proportion, of comely stature, and of able body.” The evidence is that of distinguished and unimpeachable eye-witnesses—English warriors, travellers, scientific, and literary men. To them I add the testimony of some other foreigners. Most of those English fought hard against Irishmen, and wrote hard things of them; but they all agreed in admiration of their splendid physical form.

II. That the men of Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim, and the Fews were, and are, about half-a-foot taller than they have been misrepresented to be, and are “of good proportion, of comely stature, and of able body.” *

The witnesses are produced in chronological

* For the height of the men of Mayo, etc., I give the evidence of Irishmen whose testimony cannot be impeached. For their form and strength I give some of their deeds, which prove their physical courage backed by physical force and “form.”

order ; the dates of their statements are given, but the vouchers or references are placed at the end of the book. When the precise date is not known to me a note of interrogation is affixed ; thus, " 1595?" means in or about the year 1595.

I regret to say that the portraits referred to from p. 160 to 166 are not given in this edition ; the blocks were destroyed in the fire, and so was the book, then in the Binder's hands. Fortunately, I secured one bound copy a few hours before the fire broke out.



CHAPTER II.

TESTIMONY OF EYE-WITNESSES FROM 1185 TO 1690.

1. GERALD BARRY, the Welshman, the companion of the first Anglo-Norman invaders:—"All animals of Ireland * are smaller than those of other lands, man alone retaining all his majesty. Nature alone has moulded the Irish; and, as if to show what she can do, has given them countenances of most exquisite colour, and bodies of great beauty, symmetry, height, and strength. . . They use three kinds of arms, long lances, two javelins, and battle axes of the finest tempered steel. . . They use one hand only in wielding the axe; the thumb fixed along the upper part of the handle directs the blow with such power and precision, that the helmet

* I took this from a translation. As it is not literal enough, I give a few excerpts from the original:—"Fere cuncta naturæ relinquuntur . . . Sola natura quos edidit artus, præter artis ejuslibet adminicula pro sui arbitrio et componit et disponit. Tanquam itaque probans quid per se valeat, fingere non cessat et figurare quousque in robur perfectum pulcherrimis et proceris corporibus, congruis et coloratissimis vultibus homines istos provehat et producat. Ceterum, licet ad plenum naturæ dotibus excolantur. . . ."—*Topog. Hib. Distinctio*, iii., cap. x.

covering even the neck cannot protect the head, nor the coat of mail save the body against the blow. Thus it happened in our own time that the whole thigh of a knight, well cased in its double iron plate, has been lopped off by one blow of the axe, the dismembered limb falling on one side of the horse, and the expiring body on the other. When other weapons fail they hurl stones against the enemy with most damaging results, and more dexterously and vigorously than any other nation; belabouring with showers of stones our mailed and armed men, and by their agility advancing and retiring in perfect security." On these statements of Gerald Barry, Sharon Turner writes as follows:—"According to Giraldus, the Irish did not nurse their children elaborately, as was then usual elsewhere; but they left them to nature. The Irish may be proud of the remark, though meant to be censorious, for their custom was wiser than the art they neglected. They did not adapt them (their children) to cradles, nor swathe them in bands, nor cherish their tender limbs in baths, nor compose them by art. Their midwives did not erect their noses, nor depress their faces, nor pull out their legs; but they left nature to fashion the limbs as she pleased." This of course was very barbarous; but the consequence was, says Turner, "that the

Irish were remarkable for tall and handsome bodies and pleasing countenances."

2. An old foreign writer, quoted by Ussher, says the Irish are a gigantic race, of powerful frame and brave men of war.

3. About 1332, Angus Oge MacDonnell, Lord of the Isles (son of Angus Mór, who fought at Bannockburn), married a daughter of O'Catháin, and she by way of marriage portion brought with her a number of very handsome young men, whose posterity are yet in the Isles, and are known by the difference of their names to belong to that race which has never undergone any alterations.

4. In 1339, a French writer, who was in Ireland, in his "*Histoire du Roi d'Angleterre, Richard*," says that Art MacMurrough's army consisted of 3,000 stout men, such as, it appeared to him, the English marvelled to behold; "they assailed us often both in van and rear, casting their darts with such might, that no harbergeon or coat of mail was of sufficient proof to resist their force, their darts piercing them through both sides. Our foragers that strayed from their fellows were often cut off by the Irish, who are so nimble and swift of foot, that, like unto stags, they run over mountains and valleys. From a mountain between two woods not far from the sea, we saw Macquemore (MacMorrough) descending

accompanied and mounted upon a horse which cost him, it was reported, 400 cows. MacMorrough was tall of stature, well built, strong, and active, and of haughty countenance."

5. In 1394, Sir John Froissart reports the following remarks, which he heard from an English esquire, Henry Castide:—"No man-at-arms, be he never so well mounted, can overtake the Irish, so light of foot are they. Sometimes they leap from the ground behind a horseman and embrace him so tightly that he can in no way get rid of them. They are a very hardy race, of great subtlety and of various tempers. It chanced in their pursuit, as my horse ran away with me into the midst of the enemy, one of the Irish, by a great feat of agility, leaped on the back of my horse and held me tight with both his arms, but did me no harm; for more than two hours he pressed my horse forward. His name was Bryan Costeret, and a very handsome man he was."

6. In 1521, Albert Dürer, "the Homer of painting," has left us a sketch on which is written:—"Here go the war-men of Ireland beyond England, here go the poor men of Ireland, 1521. A.D." The original is at Vienna, and a photograph of it is in the British Museum. The "war-men" and "poor

men," as seen and drawn by Dürer, are very like what you would see all through Ireland, and very unlike the creation of the cartoonists of *Punch*—all are men of fine physical appearance, as appears from the picture which we reproduce.

7. In 1543, the Lord Deputy Sentleger wrote to Henry VIII.:—"There is no horseman of this land but he hath his horse, and his two boys, and two hackneys, or one hackney and two chief horse. And assuredly, I think that for their feat of war, which is for light scoores, there are no properer horsemen in Christen ground, nor more hardy (*i.e.*, daring?), nor yet that can better endure hardness. As to their footmen, they have one sort, which be harnessed in mail and bassenettes, having every of them his weapon, called a sparre, much like the axe of the Tower, and they be named Galloglasse; and for the most part their boys bear for them three darts a piece, which darts they throw ere they come to hand strife: these sort of men be those that do not lightly abandon the field, but bide the brunt to the death. Tho' other sort, called *Kerne*, are naked men, having only their sherts and small coats. These have darts and short bows; which sort of people be both hardy (daring?) and clever to search woods and morasses, in which they be hard to be beaten. And if your Majesty will convert them to morespikes and hand-

guns, I think they would in that feat, with small instructions, do your Highness great service ; for as for gunners, there be no better in no land than they be, for the number they have, which be more than I would wish they had, unless it were to serve your Majesty."

According to Holingshed, in his *Chronicle*, p. 103, a thousand of these Irish troops rendered great service at the siege of Boulogne ; being light of foot, they would range twenty or thirty miles into the country, spoiling and burning wherever they went. They never gave quarter, and so never got it. The French, astonished at their daring, sent to Henry VIII. to inquire whether he had brought with him men or devils.

8. In 1566, John Good, an Englishman, writes :—" The Irish are in body strong, very active, of high, daring spirit, of energetic and martial temper, prodigal of life and capable of enduring labour, hunger, and cold."

9. About the year 1570, Nowel, Dean of Lichfield, wrote :—" The Irish are good and hardy men of war, who will adventure themselves greatly on their enemies seeing time to do it, good watchers by night, and as good soldiers by night as others by day ; their sons learn to be men of war from the age

of sixteen, and be continually practised in the toils thereof."

10. In 1575, the Blessed Edmund Campion, an Englishman, writing in Ireland, says:—"The Irish are not without wolves, and dogs to hunt them bigger of bone and limb than a colt; their kine, as also their cattle, and commonly whatever else the country engendereth, *except man*, is much less in quantity than ours of England. Clear men they are of skin and hue. The women are well favoured, clear-coloured, fair-handed, big, and large, suffered from their infancy to grow at will, nothing curious of their feature and proportion of body." It is well to remember that Father Campion wrote these words in Ireland, and that he reflects the Anglo-Irish ideas of the Pale.

11. About 1577, Richard Stanihurst, a Palesman, makes the same statement in about the same words as Campion.

12. About 1580, Paolo Giustiniano, who had been in Ireland, wrote a letter to a friend giving an account of his adventures, and at the end of it he gives a picture of an Irishman and his dress. I found the letter in the secret archives of the Vatican, and asked an English Jesuit, Father J. H. Pollen, to copy the sketch; I still preserve it, and I can testify

that it is a correct copy ; it shows the Irishman as having regular features.

13. In 1580, Sir John Pelham states :—" Touching the comparison between the soldiers of Berwick and the soldiers of Ireland, alleging him of Berwick to serve in great toil, if I have any judgment, all the soldiers in Christendom must give place in that to the soldier of Ireland ; and so much difference there is, if Captain Cace, Pikeman, and Walker may be judges, as between an alderman of London and a soldier of Berwick."

14. In 1581, a Spaniard, who had spent six months in visiting various parts of Ireland, sent a report to the Pope which is still preserved in the secret archives of the Vatican. From it I take a few extracts :

" Except in the port towns there are no hotels or lodging-houses. Every traveller sets up in the first house he finds, and gets food, drink, and lodging gratuitously. Table is not laid till evening, but in the meantime drink is not denied the travellers. There are eight sorts of drinks—beer made of barley, milk, whey, wine, broth, mead, uisge beatha, and spring water.

" The men wear mantles, the women have large linen wide-spreading bonnets. The nobles are clothed in garments made of skin and adorned with various colours. They show an inviolable fidelity

to their chiefs, at whose discretion they make war or peace. In battle each one follows his own natural ardour, and rushes on the ranks of the enemy without paying attention to the course pursued by his comrades. In fleetness they equal and sometimes surpass horses. They mount their horses seizing them by the left ear and using nothing to support their feet.

“The men salute each other with a kiss, the women also salute each other in the same manner. Although devoid of all polite training, they nevertheless treat each other with such kindness and urbanity, that during six months I did not see even the soldiers come once to blows; this spirit of concord seems to extend to the horses and the dogs, wherefore I am disposed to attribute all this to the mildness of this climate.

“They eat a great deal when food can be found; but they also fast with alacrity for two or even three days. On Wednesdays they abstain from flesh meats, and on Fridays from white meats and milk. The knives that are used at table exceed even their daggers in size. At dinner the most honourable person sits in the centre, the next in dignity at his right, and so on in order until the range of seats is filled. All sit facing the entrance door, in order that thus, they say, they may be always ready to

repel the attacks of their enemies. At meals, before the thanksgiving is made, the bishop or priest who may be present makes an exhortation, and all listen to it with great attention.

“They are so firmly attached to the Catholic faith that they seem never to have given ear to the heretics. They rise at midnight for prayer and meditation, to which some devote an entire hour, others half-an-hour*: the fires are always lit at the same time. At the Pater Noster in the Mass they all rise up and remain standing during its recital. They cultivate sacred poetry with great assiduity; they do not undertake to compose verses on sacred subjects except after fasting and prayer. When important negotiations are to be transacted, the bards are chosen as negotiators.”

15. In 1587 an Irish Bishop presented a report to the Holy See, in which he says:—“No schools or universities are allowed in Ireland, the English being desirous to keep the people in ignorance lest they should learn the difference between liberty and slavery; and knowing well that the Irish are warlike

* This was called *naímnéige do deunam*, which is fully treated of in Gearnon's *Parrthas an Anna*, or, Paradise of the Soul, pp. 38-42. Gearnon, who wrote in 1645, says:—“Not long ago this blessed custom was common throughout Ireland among all sorts of people who had the love of God and the care of their salvation. I beg, therefore, of all such to keep up that good practice.”

and courageous and capable of supporting every hardship and fatigue, they fear lest they should be instructed in the art of war."

16. In 1588, Captain Cuellar, of the Spanish Armada, was wrecked on the coast of Donegal or Leitrim. He was sheltered by MacClanchy, Chief of Dartry, in North Leitrim. Of the inhabitants of that and the neighbouring Irish regions he writes: "The wife of my master (MacClanchy) was extremely beautiful, and was very kind to me during the three months I was with them. These savages (*selvajes*) live like brutes in the mountains, which are very rugged in the country where we were lost. They live in huts made of straw. The men are big-bodied, with handsome faces and fine limbs, active and swift as roe deer.* They dress after their fashion in tight hose and short coats (*sayas*) made of very coarse goat's hair;† they cover themselves with cloaks and wear their hair down to their eyes. They are great pedestrians, and very enduring as regards fatigue. They are continually at war with the English, who hold a garrison close by, and do not allow them to enter their territory, which is some forty leagues in length and breadth. Most of

* So Professor O'Reilly; Major M. A. S. Hume translates, "as greyhounds."

† Hume has: "They dress in *tight brogues* and short tunics of thick skin."

the women are very handsome, but badly attired (or 'ill-arranged'), wear only a shirt, and a cloak which covers them entirely, and a thick linen cloth which they double closely about the head, tying it in front. They are very laborious and very domestic after their fashion.* Were it not for these natives (salvajes), who watched over us as well as they would over their own persons, not one of us would have survived. They eat but one meal in the twenty-four hours, and that at night; their usual food is oaten bread and butter, their drink is sour milk, having none other; they do not drink water, which is the best of all; on feast days they eat some half-cooked flesh meat, without bread or salt, such being their custom. In O'Can's† town were very many handsome girls."

Sometime after, a Bohemian Baron called at Dublin Castle, and, among other things, said he had visited O'Cane's castle and found that that chieftain's daughters "were very nymphs in beauty." Moryson puts into the Baron's mouth a description of the déshabille or undress of O'Cane and his daughters utterly at variance with what Cuellar and all other travellers say. The description is too vile

*"Very industrious and good housewives in their way."—Hume

† O'Catháin.

for these pages, and may be read at page 33 of the first volume of the *English in Ireland*, by Froude, who, reckless writer though he was, introduced it with the words: "If Fynes Moryson may be believed. . . ."

17. In 1589, Robert Payne, an English undertaker, who, with his twenty-five partners, got 10,400 Irish acres of forfeited land in Cork, wrote a description of Ireland, in which he says:—"Some Englishmen will say that there is great danger in travelling the country (of Ireland); yet they cannot meet in all that land any worse than themselves. The people here are of three sorts. The better sort are very civil and honestly given, the most of them greatly inclined to husbandry; although as yet unskilful, many, through their great labour, are rich in cattle, some one man here milketh 100 kine, and 200 or 300 ewes and goats, and reareth yearly much of the breed. Their entertainment for your diet shall be more welcome and plentiful than cleanly and handsome; for, although they did never see you before, they will make you the best cheer their country yieldeth for two or three days, and take not anything therefor. They keep their promise faithfully, and are more desirous of peace than our Englishmen, for that in time of wars they are more charged and also are fatter preys for the enemy, who respecteth

no person. They are quick-witted, and of good constitution of body. You may travel through all the land without any danger or injury offered by the very worst Irish, and be greatly relieved of the best.

“The second sort being least in number, are called Kernes; they are warlike men; most of that sort were slain in the late wars. The third sort are a very idle people, not unlike our English beggars, yet, for the most part, of pure complexion and good constitution of body.”

18. In 1594, Captain Dawtry, writing to Cecil, July 21st, asks to be entrusted “to fetch a regiment of 1,500 or 2,000 trained soldiers of the mere Irish birth out of Ireland; as they will do more spoil upon the enemy than thrice as many soldiers of any other nation, for there can be no better soldiers upon the earth than they be, either for the use of their weapons or the *strength of their bodies and minds*, for they are such seasoned men for the war that they can endure all fortunes whatsoever, and they will keep health when others, with a little extremity, will lie by the wall.”

19. 1594. Camden says:—“The Irish are warlike, witty, remarkable for the just proportion of their limbs, for the suppleness of their flesh and muscles, and for their incredible agility, they are strong in their persons; all living things, except

man and those hunting dogs, which we call greyhounds, are smaller than in England."

20. In 1597, Edmund Spencer writes:—"I have heard some great warriors say that, in all the services which they had seen abroad in foreign countries, they never saw a more comely man than the Irishman, nor that cometh on more bravely in his charge; neither is his manner of mounting unseemly, though he lacks stirrups, but more ready than with stirrups, for in his getting up his horse is still going, whereby he gaineth way. Sure they are very valiant and hardy, for the most part great endurers of cold, labours, hunger, and all hardness, very active and strong of hand, very swift of foot, very vigilant and circumspect in their enterprises, very present in perils, very great scorers of death. *Eudoxius*: Truly, by this that you say, it seems the Irishman is a very brave soldier. *Irenæus*: Yea, surely even in that rude service he beareth himself very courageously. But when he cometh to experience of service abroad, and is put to a piece or a pike, he maketh as worthy a soldier as any nation he meeteth with. The Irish are come of as mighty a race as the world ever brought forth."

21. In 1599, Dymmok wrote, while he was in attendance on the Earl of Essex in Ireland:—"Of complexion the Irish are clear and well favoured,

both men and women of tall and corpulent bodies ; the gallowglass are picked and selected men of great and mighty bodies."

22. In 1599 or 1598 an English State paper sets forth that:—"In Mayo are many of the name of Burke, stout men, able to make before the war consumed many of them, 1,500 fighting men. They hardly ever continued themselves two years together within compass of obedience ; they are of a noble mind and courage, and, with the O'Flahertys, they are considered the greatest nation and possessing the strongest country of any people in Ireland, and, being joined by the O'Rourkes and O'Connors, they form a league of the proudest, wildest, and fiercest clans."

23. In 1599 the Earl of Essex wrote to Elizabeth : "The people in general have *able bodies* by nature, and have gotten by custom ready use of arms . . . in *their pride they value* no man but themselves . . . they are so many and so framed to be soldiers, that the war, of force, will be great, and costly, and long. Their common soldiers are too hard for our new men. They have, though I *do unwillingly confess it, better bodies*, and perfecter use of their arms than those men whom your Majesty sends over. This is the hand of him who will live your dearest, and will die your Majesty's faithfullest servant—Essex."

24. 1599? According to Sir Walter Raleigh:—
 “The Irish in the last war have been victorious, with an equal or even with an inferior force. The reason is, that in place of darts, as of old, they are now furnished with as good pikes and muskets as England hath.” The obvious meaning is, that Irishmen are better men than the English, and, when furnished with as good arms, would beat an equal or even superior force of Englishmen.

25. In the 16th century, Hadrian Junius, a Continental writer, who, no doubt, had seen the Irishmen in foreign service, thus extols their warlike courage, formidable form, and fleetness of foot, which, he says, surpasses that of deer:—

“En ego, cum regni sceptro, mavortia bello
 Pectora, et horriferas hominum, non fingo, figuras,
 Qui cursu alipedes norunt praevertere cervos.”

26. About the end of the 16th century, Chassan, a Frenchman or Spaniard, in his *Catalogus Gloriæ Mundi* (Pars. 12, Consider. 57), says:—“Ireland has a people most apt for war, of beautiful and tall body, of the strongest limbs, and of a fair complexion—Hibernia gentes habet bello aptissimas, pulchro et elato sunt corpore, membrisque robustissimis ac colore candido.”

27. In 1600, Primate Peter Lombard, a native of Waterford, and of English or Norman blood, in his

Commentary on Ireland, presented to the Holy See, says:—"The Irish are strong, well-built, handsome, of soft flesh, clear skin, marvellous agility, and swiftness of foot; very much inclined for war, and as fit for it as any nation whatever—able to endure work and hunger, greedy of glory, and most capable of learning the whole art of war, and the use of arms of all kinds. They much love the sciences and liberal arts, and very much honour men of learning."

28. In 1601, Fynes Moryson, Secretary to Lord Deputy Mountjoy in Ireland, writes:—"The men and greyhounds of Ireland are of great stature; the men are firmer on foot, and have a stronger push of the spear than either English or Spaniard."

29. In 1609, Cardinal Bentivoglio, the Papal Nuncio in Flanders, writes to Cardinal Borghese in Rome:—"The people of Ireland are generally of handsome appearance, of great stature, of blonde hair, and of most clear colour and complexion (*candidissima carnagione*). Many Irishmen have served for a long time in this country in the army of the King of Spain, and have ever been esteemed valiant soldiers (*valerosi soldati*)."

30. In 1610, Captain Barnaby Rich, who had served against them for forty years, writes:—"I can take no exceptions to their ability of body. To speak the truth of the Irish, I say they are beholding

to nature, that hath framed them comely personages, of good proportion and very well limbed. And to speak truly, the English, Scottish, and Irish are easily to be discerned from all nations of the world besides, as well by the excellency of their complexions as by the rest of their lineaments, from the crown of the head to the sole of the foot. And although in the remote places the uncivil sort so disfigure themselves with their glybs, their trowes, and their misshapen attire, yet they appear to every man's eye to be of good proportion, of comely stature, and of able body."

31. In 1612, Sir John Davis, an Elizabethan statesman, says:—"During the time of my service I have visited *all the provinces* of that kingdom (Ireland) in sundry journeys and circuits, wherein I have observed the bodies and minds of the people endued with extraordinary abilities of nature."

On 20th August, 1611, W. Trumbull writes to Sir J. Digby from Brussels:—"Our Irish, having added some experience to their valour, think that all the world is not comparable to them for the warrs. And to the end they may keep their troops on foot to make use of any opportunity which our negligence may offer them, they have, by the counsel and advice of Spain, sent one Conor Og O'Relli to command their troops in Poland, and to keep them

together until they may do us a mischief in Ireland. It is hinted here that the King of Poland, having gotten Moscow and Smolensko, may in short time become master of the whole Dukedom of Muscovia and Russland." (Reports in Hist. MSS. in 1885; Digby MSS., p. 529).

32. 1612? Lord Bacon writes of Ireland:—"For this island, it is endowed with so many dowries of nature, considering the fruitfulness of the soil, the ports, the rivers, the fishings, the quarries, the woods, and other materials, and especially the race and generation of men, valiant, hard, and active, as it is not easy, no not upon the Continent, to find such confluence of commodities, if the hand of man did join with the hand of nature."

33. In 1614, Carew, Lord President of Munster and Earl of Totnes, says:—"The Irish have the same bodies they ever had, and therein they had and have the advantage of us. From their infancies they have been and are exercised in the use of arms. That they are better soldiers than heretofore their continual employment in the wars abroad assures us; and they do conceive that their men are better than ours."

34. In 1615, an English anonymous writer, quoted by Mr. Prendergast, in his *Cromwellian Settlement*, from an English MS. of Trinity College Library,

states:—"There lives not a people more hardy, active, and painful; . . . neither is there any will endure the miseries of war, as famine, watching, heat, cold, wet, travel, and the like, so naturally and with such facility and courage that they do. The Prince of Orange's Excellency uses often publickly to deliver that the Irish are soldiers the first day of their birth. The famous Henry IV., late King of France, said there would prove no nation so resolute martial men as they, would they be ruly and not too headstrong. And General Sir John Norris was wont to ascribe this particular to that nation above others, that he never beheld so few of any country as of Irish that were idiots and cowards, which is very notable."

35. In 1621, Father Henry Fitzsimon, S.J., a native of Dublin, published in Germany his *Diary of the Bohemian Campaign of 1620*. In it he thus testifies to the esteem in which the Irish soldiers were held by De Bucquoi, the Imperial General, who had known them in Flanders:—"On the 9th of November marauding parties were surprised on both sides. Among the enemies were many English. In the English contingent sent to the help of Frederick, son-in-law of James the First, were Irish Catholics—real soldiers. The Irish are everywhere considered to be as faithful as they are invincible. They came

in troops to our camp with their arms, and were heartily welcomed by Count de Bucquoi, who knows them very well, and what mettle they are made of. They were enrolled in the corps of their fellow-countrymen, commanded by the most noble Captain MacSorley."

36. In 1640 the Irish in foreign service showed what they were made of, when Owen Roe O'Neill, with 1,500 foot, chiefly Irish, and 400 horse, from the 13th of June to the 10th of August, defended Arras against a French force of 25,000 foot and 9,000 cavalry; and, when obliged to capitulate, was allowed to march out with all the honours of war, and retire to Douay.

37. In 1640, Sir Warham St. Leger, "Sergeant-Major-General of the Army," having reviewed at Carrickfergus nine thousand recruits, of whom eight thousand were Irish Catholics, "saw such willingness and aptness in them to learn their exercises, and that mettle and gallant appearance which would recommend them to be chosen for a service where a crown lay at stake, that he made no scruple to pronounce that, considering how newly they had been raised, no Prince in the Christian world would have for their number a better body of men in his service."

38. In 1645, Massari and Malasana, companions

of the Nuncio Rinuccini, observed that—"The men of Ireland were good-looking, of extraordinary strength, swift runners; able to bear patiently and with alacrity any hardship, and were all given to arms. The women are of surpassing height and exceeding beauty; and with comeliness combine matchless modesty and piety, by which their native attractions are enhanced. They have large families, and their children are very handsome, of great stature and muscular strength; the majority of them have fair or yellow hair, and white and ruddy complexion."

39. In 1649, the Nuncio Rinuccini, after four years' residence in Ireland, reports to the Pope that—"The modern Irish (or Anglo-Irish) are, for the most, not of tall stature*; they are quick-witted and most subtle of understanding; but the old Irish (or Gaels) are tall in body, simple, unrefined or rude in their manner of living. The soldiers of this kingdom, by their power of endurance and their strength of body, are most fit for war."

40. In 1660, Dynely says in his *Tour in Ireland*: "The men are, for the most part, of large proportion of body and of clear complexion."

41. In 1662, Dr. Lynch, of English blood, born in

* "Di non alta statura," which Miss Hutton wrongly renders, "of low stature." (P. 485 of her translation of Rinuccini's Embassy.)

the city of Galway, wrote:—"The most malignant calumniator of the Irish never denied their fame in war; to produce more arguments in defence of their martial fame would be only holding up a candle to show the mid-day sun. So invincible were the Irish down even to our own day, that, as John Wadding writes in his *History of Ireland*, in all the victories won by the Irish, their success was solely attributable, under God, to their own soldiers; and all the victories of the English were due to the revolt of some of the Irish, and to Irish auxiliaries of the English."

42. About the year 1672, the successful undertaker, Sir William Petty, wrote of the Irishmen: "For their shape, colour, stature, and complexion, I see nothing inferior to any other people, nor any enormous predominance of any humour."

43. In 1690, D'Avaux and Desgrigny, two Frenchmen, testify to the fine physical form of the Irish. Lord Macaulay says:—"The (Irish) army which Tyrconnell had formed was, in proportion to the population from which it was taken, the largest that Europe had ever seen. It was the fashion both in England and on the Continent to ascribe these defeats and disgraces to the pusillanimity of the Irish race. That this was a great error is sufficiently proved by the history of every war which has been

carried on in any part of Christendom during five generations. The raw material out of which a good army may be formed existed in great abundance among the Irish. D'Avaux informed his Government that they were a remarkably handsome,* tall, and well-made race; that they were personally brave. After extolling their strength and spirit, he proceeded to explain why it was that, with all their strength and spirit, they were constantly beaten. 'It was vain,' he said, 'to imagine that bodily prowess, animal courage, or patriotic enthusiasm would, in the day of battle, supply the place of discipline.' . . . But the horse were, with some exceptions, excellent. Some regiments had been raised and disciplined equal to any that he had ever seen. One of Lauzun's officers was so unjust as to represent the people of Ireland, not merely as ignorant and idle, which they were, but as hopelessly stupid and unfeeling, which they were not. They were insensible to praise or blame, to promises and threats. And yet it was a pity of them: for they were physically '*the finest race of men in the world.*'†

* "Les plus beaux hommes qu'on puisse voir. Il n'y en a presque point au dessous de cinq pieds cinq à six pouces (français). Ils sont très-bien faits. Jamais troupes n'ont marché comme celles-ci."—D'Avaux.

† Desgrigny to Louvois, May 27, 1690, quoted by Macaulay, who gives such French passages as, "Les menaces ne les étonnent point. Ce sont les gens du monde les mieux faits."

“The inefficiency of the Irish was, in that age, commonly imputed, both by their enemies and by their allies, to natural poltroonery. How little ground there was for such an imputation has since been signally proved by many brave achievements in every part of the globe. It ought, indeed, even in the seventeenth century, to have occurred to reasonable men that a race which furnished some of the best horse soldiers in the world would certainly, with judicious training, furnish good foot soldiers. But the Irish foot soldiers had not merely not been well-trained, but had been elaborately ill-trained. . . . The Irish Horse maintained a desperate fight in the bed of the river Boyne with Solmes’ Blues. They drove the Danish Brigade back into the bed of the river, and fell impetuously on the Huguenot regiments, which began to give way. Caillemot, while rallying the Huguenots, was slain. Schomberg rallied them, but fell. The Huguenots rallied once more under the impetuous charge of the Irish (Horse), and the battle continued to rage fast and furious all around. King William came up with reinforcements, and his presence inspired his men to renewed efforts. Still Hamilton (with his Irish Horse) held his ground bravely. The Enniskilleners were sent against him, but he swept them instantly from his path. William tried to rally them, but in

vain—they turned and fled. Then the King, placing himself at the head of his own fellow-countrymen, a company of Dutch dragoons, furiously charged the Irish. This was the final struggle. Left without reinforcements, abandoned by De Lauzun and King James, and overwhelmed on all sides by the rapidly-increasing English regiments, Hamilton was borne down and taken prisoner. Still the Irish Horse fought on. ‘Is this business over, or will your Horse make more fight,’ said William to Hamilton, when the Irish commander was brought into his presence. ‘On my honour, sir,’ said Hamilton, ‘I believe they will.’ . . . Whole troops had been cut to pieces. One fine regiment had only thirty unwounded men left. It was enough that these gallant soldiers had disputed the field till they were left without support, or hope, or guidance, till their bravest leader was a captive, and till their king had fled.”



CHAPTER III.

WITNESSES FROM 1727 TO 1896.

44. IN 1727, Dean Swift wrote, "The Irish were generally esteemed the best forces in the French service, and they have always behaved themselves as such in the late wars; their officers are of approved courage, great skill, and experience in military affairs. The gentlemen of Ireland, with all the disadvantages of being exiles and strangers, have been able to distinguish themselves by their valour and conduct in so many parts of Europe, I think above all other nations. . . . I do assert, from several experiments I have made in travelling over both kingdoms, I have found the poor cottagers here, who could speak our language, to have a much better natural taste for good sense, humour and raillery, than ever I observed among people of the like sort in England. I have seen the grossest suppositions passed upon the English with regard to Irishmen. . . . I have known crowds of English coming about an Irishman in a country town, and wondering to see him look so much better than themselves."

Swift's statement is confirmed by Mr. Lecky, who

says:—"The Catholics had been completely prostrated by the battle of the Boyne and by the surrender of Limerick. They had stipulated, indeed, for religious liberty, but the Treaty of Limerick was soon shamefully violated, and it found no avengers. Sarsfield and his brave companions had abandoned a country where defeat left no opening for their talents, and had joined the Irish Brigade which had been formed in the service of France. They carried with them something of the religious fervour of the old covenanters, combined with the military enthusiasm so characteristic of Ireland, and they repaid the hospitality of the French by an unflinching and devoted zeal. In the campaign of Savoy, on the walls of Cremona, on the plains of Almanza and of Landen, their courage shone conspicuously. Even at Ramilies and at Blenheim they gained laurels amid the disasters of their friends, while at Fontenoy their charge shattered the victorious column of the English, and is said to have wrung from the English Monarch: 'Cursed be the laws that deprive me of such subjects.'"

45. In 1738, the Rev. Dr. Samuel Madden, of Trinity College, in his *Reflections proper for the Gentlemen of Ireland*, says:—"It must be owned that the native Irish, in their persons, are extremely well bodied and limbed, and as to their tempers,

remarkably hospitable and good-natured when the leaven of Popery does not sour their natural disposition. In a word, both as to their morals and bodies, they are as fit for and as well deserving of cultivation, and, if due care be taken of them, as capable of being good husbandmen, soldiers, sailors, artizans, merchants, and scholars as most nations in Europe."

46. About 1750, General Woulfe, the future conqueror of Quebec, visited Dublin, and described it as a "city crowded with large-limbed people and handsome women."

47. About 1765, Lord Macartney wrote:—"The Irish are a strong, hardy people, active in body and of a bold and daring spirit; patient of cold, hunger, and labour; dauntless in danger, and regardless of life when glory is in view; generous and hospitable beyond all bounds of prudence."

48. In 1765, Francis I., Emperor of Germany, wrote:—"The more Irish officers in the Austrian service the better; our troops will always be better disciplined. An Irish coward is an uncommon character; and that which the natives of Ireland dislike from principle they generally perform through a desire for glory."

49. In 1776, according to Adam Smith:—"The common people in Scotland, who are fed with oat-

meal, are in general neither so strong nor so handsome as the same rank of people in England, who are fed with wheaten bread. They neither work so well, nor look so well. . . . But it seems otherwise with potatoes. The chairmen, porters, and coalheavers in London, and those unfortunate women who live on the streets, the strongest men and the most beautiful women perhaps in the British dominions, are said to be, the greater part of them, from the lowest rank of people in Ireland, who are generally fed with this root. No food can afford a more decisive proof of its nourishing qualities, or of its being peculiarly suitable to the health of the human constitution."

50. In 1779 there were thirty-nine general officers of Irish birth or descent in the American Revolutionary Armies. In reply to a question of Edmund Burke at a Parliamentary inquiry, General Robertson testified that the American General Lee said: "Half the rebel army is from Ireland." And before a Parliamentary Committee in 1779, Mr. Galloway, a former secretary of the Pennsylvania Legislature, stated that "the rebel armies are one quarter of American birth, one quarter of English and Scotch, and *one-half Irish*." One quarter of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were Irish, eight of the thirteen colonies had Irish governors, so says

Mr. Wilson King, United States' Consul at Birmingham, in a recent paper, in which he maintains that the Irish had more to do with the making of the United States than even the English.

51. In 1780, Arthur Young says:—"The Spanish* race of Kerry, of part of Cork and Limerick, are tall, thin, well-made. The food of the common Irish is potatoes and milk; it is said not to be sufficiently nourishing for the support of hard labour; but this opinion is very amazing in a country, many of whose poor people are as athletic in their form, as robust, and as capable of enduring labour as any upon earth. When I see the people of a country, in spite of political oppression, with well-formed, vigorous bodies, and their cottages swarming with children; when I see their men athletic, and their women beautiful, I know not how to believe them subsisting on unwholesome food. . . . I have known the Irish reapers in Hertfordshire work as laboriously as any of our own men, and living on potatoes, which they procured from London, but drinking nothing but ale. Our own service, both by sea and land, as well as that (unfortunately for us) of the principal monarchies of Europe, speaks of their steady and determined courage. Every un-

* The opinion of Young and other Englishmen, that the people of Kerry, Cork, Limerick, and Galway are of Spanish descent, has no foundation.—E. H.

prejudiced traveller who visits them will be as much pleased with their cheerfulness as obliged by their hospitality; and will find them a brave, polite, and liberal people."

52. In 1793, S. Crumpe, M.D., in *Essay on Providing Employment for the Irish People*, p. 188, wrote:—"Innumerable good qualities might be adduced to counterbalance the defects we have stated; but they partake more of the energy of courage, the warmth of patriotism, and generosity of hospitality, than of the cool, considerate, and prudent perseverance of industry." (He attributes their defects to their rulers and persecutors.)

53. In 1805, Foster, speaking against Emancipation in the House of Commons, said:—"The Irish (Catholics) composed a principal and honourable part of the army under Lord Hutchinson, by which Egypt was vanquished. Is it not also proclaimed to the glory of that people, that gallant Nelson was greatly indebted to their valour in the hour of danger for the conquest he obtained over the fleet of the enemy on the coast of that country? Is not the British army supplied with some of its most courageous recruits from the same source? Have not the militia behaved well?"

54. The Hon. George Ponsonby, replying to Foster, said:—"The hon. gentleman has told us of

the victories of Lord Nelson and Lord Hutchinson in Egypt, gained by the efforts and assistance of Irishmen, from which he draws a conclusive proof of the loyalty of the lower order of the Catholics; and being also convinced of the loyalty of the higher orders of that body, he is determined to reward it by—refusing the prayer of their petition.”

55. In 1805, Major Newenham, of the notorious North-Cork Militia, published a book on the population of Ireland. At pages 132-3 he writes:—“Ireland, during the last war, was, no doubt, the great *officina militum*. In former times its hardy and valiant natives, patient of hunger, wet, and cold, were, *with the permission* of (the English) Government, drawn off in thousands to recruit the armies of France; and on one memorable occasion at least (at the battle of Fontenoy), were employed to tear the well-earned laurels from the brows of their former fellow-subjects. In former times the natives of Ireland were not allowed to shed their blood for our king; but now they constitute, perhaps, two-fifths of the disposable force of the Empire, and are likely to constitute a much greater proportion. I cannot, however, believe that more than 120,000 Irish Roman Catholics and about 10,000 Irish Protestants lost their lives in the course of the last war in distant lands, in defence of our Constitution, Laws, and Religion.”

56. In 1805, 13th of May, Charles James Fox, in a speech in the House of Commons, said:—"All your supplies would be little rivulets compared to (Ireland) this great ocean of military resource." Of that period Sir E. Bulwer-Lytton wrote that "two-thirds of the British army was Irish, and the lowest of them, the dregs of the Irish populace. What a reflection!"

57. In 1807, Grattan, in the English Parliament, said:—"In the last war, of 80,000 seamen, 50,000 were Irish names; in Chelsea one-third of the pensioners were Irish names; in some of the men-of-war nearly the whole complement of men were Irish. What is the British navy? A number of planks? Certainly not. A number of British men? Certainly not. No; but a number of British and Irish. Transfer the Irish seamen to the French, and *where* is the British navy?"

Grattan said in the English Parliament, May 31, 1811:—"The Catholics constitute a great proportion of your armies, a great proportion of your marine force. A statement has been furnished of the proportion between the Protestant and Catholic part of the forces quartered in the Isle of Wight, and of the crews of several ships at Portsmouth, and the Catholics were by far the greatest proportion. In view of our maritime and land forces, the number

of Catholics is enough to turn the scale of empire. They have enabled you to vanquish those French, for a supposed attachment to whom you disqualify the Irish Catholics. The Russian, the Austrian, and the Prussian armies fled before the armies of France. Neither the insensibility of the Russian soldier, nor the skilful evolutions of the Prussian, availed them in the day of battle ; they all fled before the French armies ; so that with her collected force she gave a final stroke to the liberties of Europe. Whatever remained of the glory of Europe fell at the feet of France. In the last contest with Austria feats of courage were displayed by the Austrians, such as could be equalled by nothing but the courage that conquered them ; and yet the armies of Austria were in a short time shattered by the armies of France.

“ And if in another part of the Continent you have been enabled to oppose that nation with more success, to whom was that success principally to be ascribed ? It was to the Scóth Presbyterian, a steady and gallant soldier. It was to the Irish Catholics, whom you have incapacitated from honours and rank, and who, while he was exposing to every breeze his garments bathed in the blood of France, was also carrying about with him the marks of your disqualification. One regiment, which had lately distinguished itself in a remarkable manner,

was raised in Dublin almost entirely of Catholics. Had the gallant officer who raised those men insisted on their declaring their abhorrence of the Mass, France would have had one eagle the more, and you would have had one regiment the less."

General Montagu Mathew, May 31st, 1811, said in the British House of Commons:—"I do not hesitate to say that the great military successes of this country since the commencement of the war were chiefly to be attributed to Scotch and Irish valour. The mere English soldiery had the least share in it. . . . The glorious termination of the campaign in Egypt was reserved for my gallant and revered friend, Lord Hutchinson, an Irishman; and the work throughout the present campaign was chiefly begun and completed by Irish and Scotch. The men who had stormed Montevideo were Irish Catholics; the men who astonished the French at Maida were Irish Catholics; the men who had most distinguished themselves at the battle of Vimiera were Irish Catholics; in the hottest part of the battle of Busaco was a clear majority of Irish Catholics; the 88th Regiment, who had so admirably charged the enemy in that action, were, to a man, Catholics; and in the battle of Barrosa . . . need I remind the House what was done by the Irish Catholics upon that memorable day? (Hear, hear.) The 87th, to a man Catholic, the brave 87th, the Prince's

own Irish heroes . . . they spared their powder, but they gave the enemy the steel with a vengeance. How was the Isle of Bourbon taken? By the valour of the Irish Catholics, under the conduct of as brave and skilful an officer as any in the service; I mean my gallant friend and respected constituent, Colonel Keating. If the Irish Catholics were sent out under the command of their own brave countrymen, of such men as the Irish Generals, Lords Wellington and Hutchinson, Marshal Beresford, Generals Spencer, Doyle, Pack, and others, what might they not accomplish? The navy is manned by more Irish than English. . . . If the Irish were well used they might be led by a silken thread; they demanded but their rights, and their rights they would have. With my last breath I will support the just cause of the Irish Catholics.”

I regret that I cannot here state the proportion of Irish, Scots, and English in the Peninsular War. The relative number of the Irish must have been greater than in 1830, which was a time of peace. On the 1st of January, 1830, the relative numbers were* :—

		Irish.	English.	Scots.
Infantry	...	37,740	30,208	10,506
Cavalry	...	3,025	5,031	750
		<hr/> 40,765	<hr/> 35,239	<hr/> 11,256

* P. 32 of *Ireland*, by J. G. V. Porter, Esq. 1844. 2nd Ed. London : published by Ridgway and Fisher, Son & Co.

Those were the men that would do the fighting.

	English.	Scots.	Irish.
Foot-guards ...	4,388	437	192
Life-guards ...	709	66	15
Horse-guards...	303	15	7
	<hr/> 5,400	<hr/> 518	<hr/> 214

How many of those ornamental Household troops were exposed to the hardships of the Peninsular campaigns? For the share the Connacht soldiers took in it, see pages 130 to 136 *infra*.

Even "in 1770 we find English men-of-war in which nearly the whole crew was composed of Irishmen, who could scarcely speak one word of English. To prevent the hatching of mutinies, orders were frequently given, and enforced, that no conversation in Irish should be allowed on board. The seamen of the fleet deserted at every turn; they were often as rough, brutal, and drunken as their officers. To hold them down was a matter of no small difficulty. The code of rules governing the Navy, or 'the Articles of War,' were, therefore, of extraordinary severity. Almost any offence could be punished by a court-martial with death. Disobeying orders . . . uttering mutinous words . . . were all punishable with death."—*Nelson and his Times*, by Rear-Admiral Lord Charles Beresford, in Her Majesty's Printers' Pictorial Library, vol. ii., p. 10.

For this reference I thank my friend, Mr. Dennehy, Editor of the *Nation*.

58. In 1807, General Lord Hutchinson of Alexandria, an Irishman, who, with soldiers (chiefly Irish), drove Napoleon's army out of Egypt, said in the House of Lords:—"Assertions have been made in this House to traduce the character of my Catholic countrymen, which, if uttered anywhere else, I should not hesitate to pronounce the most unfounded calumnies. They are as brave, as generous a people as any on earth; their virtues are peculiarly their own; their faults are not the faults of their nature, but of those laws under whose baleful operation they have suffered."

59. In 1807, July 29, Lord Holland said, in the House of Lord:—"I know the character of Irishmen, and no character did I ever see more conspicuously marked by benevolence, generosity, and courage."

60. In 1807, August 13, Lord William Russell declared in Parliament the Irish to be "a people as brave, as generous, and naturally as affectionate as any nation under the sun."

61. In 1808, on the 23rd of April, Admiral Lord Colingwood wrote to Lord Mulgrave:—"One hundred Irish boys came out two years since, and are now the topmen of the fleet."

62. In 1808, John Wilson Croker, in his *Sketches*

of the *State of Ireland* (p. 30), has, with a mass of calumnies, this admission :—" Their food is potatoes or oaten cake, sour milk, and sometimes salted fish. The children are generally half, and sometimes altogether, naked ; yet, from this nakedness, they grow up to that strength and stature for which they are admirable."

63. In 1808, Sir John Carr, in *The Stranger in Ireland*, pp. 249, 410 :—" The handsomest peasants are those of Kilkenny and its neighbourhood ; the most wretched and squalid, those of Cork and Waterford, of Munster and Connacht. In Roscommon they are handsome, and the men are fair and tall ; in Meath they are heavily-limbed ; in Kerry, very much like the Spaniards. I saw a review of the military quartered in and near Cork, and never beheld finer men. An English officer of rank and family informed me (what candour induces me not to suppress) that, on a march, the native troops of Ireland have frequently preceded the English by one mile in four miles."

64. In 1808 Hutton published his *Statistical Survey of the County of Clare* for the Royal Dublin Society. At p. 168 he says :—" Let those ignorant cavillers, who say that potatoes and milk is not nourishing food, look at the children, generally in rags, but with every appearance and reality of ruddy

health ; and if that is not sufficient, let them attend a football or hurling match, and see the superiority of potatoes and milk over gross cheese and bad beer—the young men performing feats of activity that would astonish a bread-and-cheese Englishman.”

65. In 1809, Newenham, in his *View of Ireland*, p. v.:—“Ireland furnishes at least 100,000 hardy and intrepid soldiers and seamen for the defence of the Empire.”

66. In 1811, Scott, in his *Vision of Don Roderick*, Stanza LX., referring to Wellington’s Irish soldiers in the Peninsular War, says:—

“Hark! from yon stately ranks what laughter rings,
Mingling wild mirth with war’s stern chivalry,
His jest while each blithe comrade round him flings,
And moves to death with military glee—
Boast, Erin, boast them! tameless, frank, and free,
In kindness warm, and fierce in danger known,
Rough nature’s children, humorous as she:
And He, yon chieftain—strike the proudest tone
Of thy bold harp, Green Isle!—the Hero is thine
own.”

67. In 1812, Dewar, a Scotchman, published his *Observations on Ireland*, after a tour in that island. He says:—“The intrepidity and courage of the Irish has never been called in question. At this moment they compose a great proportion of our army and navy.”

68. In 1812, Wakefield, an Englishman, endorses those words of Hamilton:—"Though Ireland abounds with bogs, from its peculiar salubrity the natives are celebrated for just symmetry of proportion and athletic frame; because, from earliest infancy to manhood, a check is rarely given to the progressive increase of animal strength. From the same source arise those ardent passions and that flow of animal spirits which render the natives of Ireland always cheerful, often turbulent and boisterous—the natural consequences of uninterrupted health and a vigorous constitution."

69. In 1813, I. C. Curwen, M.P. for Carlisle, made the tour of Ireland. He says in one of his letters, published in 1818:—"Is it not grievous to behold so intelligent, so robust a people pine away their lives in apathy? We may be assured that not from any defect in the corporeal powers of the people can any impediment arise."

70. 1818. The famous Scotchman, Dr. Chalmers, says Mr. Gladstone, spoke as follows in 1818:—"I speak of the great mass of the Irish people, and I do think that I perceive a something in the natural character of Ireland which draws me more attractively to the love of its people than any other picture of national manners has ever inspired. They are a people, you will find, whom no penalties could turn, and no terror of military violence could over-

come, who keep a scowling front to hostility that is not to be softened *while war spreads its absolute cruelties* over that unhappy people. They are a people who will do homage to the omnipotence of charity, and when the mighty armour of Christian kindness will be brought to bear on them, it will be found to be irresistible."

71. In 1820, Sydney Smith wrote in the *Edinburgh Review*:—"We admire the Irish—feel the most sincere pity for the state of Ireland—and think the conduct of the English to that country to have been a system of atrocious cruelty and contemptible meanness. With such a climate, such a soil, and such a people, the inferiority of Ireland to the rest of Europe is directly traceable to the long wickedness of the English Government."

72. In 1820, Thomas Kitson Cromwell, in his *Tours in Ireland*, vol. i., p. 19:—"The females in general derive from nature no small share of their appropriate loveliness; the smoke and filth of cabins and their rude manual labours contribute early in life to deface this fair distinction; too frequently they are observed to look old before their prime. 'Beauty in the fair sex,' says Mr. Curwen, very justly, 'is as much prized and as little taken care of in Ireland as in any country in the civilized world.'"

73. In 1821, George Petrie, the archæologist, the

son of Scotch parents, wrote of his visit to the West of Ireland:—"At Kilfenora, while sketching, I was attended by a crowd of persons, poor and in want. I felt considerable annoyance, but a little conversation with them gave me another proof, in addition to many I had already met with, of the superiority in natural politeness, feeling, and sense of the peasants to that of the class immediately above them. Their curiosity is never obtrusive, their easy familiarity is never disrespectful; they are patient and cheerful under the severest sufferings. A youth, wild-looking, ragged, *well-formed*, and of oval face, enthusiastic and intellectual, was singing an Irish song for a group of delighted listeners." Here Petrie expresses amazement at Pinkerton's assertion that "the wild Irish are at this day the veriest savages on the face of the globe." As the result of much inquiry and attentive observation, he praises their primitive simplicity, ingenuous manners, singular hospitality, and honesty. They are brave, hardy, industrious, enterprising, thoughtfully intelligent, innocent. "Lying and drinking form no part of their character. They never swear, have a high sense of propriety, honour, and justice. They are healthy, comely, and prepossessing, of fine intellect, and delicate sensibility."

74. In 1825, Sir Walter Scott writes from Ireland

to Johanna Bailie:—"In spite of all the disadvantages which have hitherto retarded her progress, Ireland yet will be the queen of the trefoil of kingdoms. I never saw a finer country, or, to speak my mind, a finer people."

75. In 1834, Sir H. Inglis, a Scot, stated in his *Tour in Ireland*:—"There is a difference between English and Irish physiognomy seen at a very cursory glance, and certainly not to the disadvantage of Irish females, whose generally high foreheads and intellectual expression were not thrown away upon me." P. 12, Ed. 1836.

76. In December, 1836, a writer of the *Dublin University Magazine* says:—"It is well known that the Irish race furnishes the most perfect specimens of human beauty and vigour, both mental and bodily.

"In Meath, famine has never laid her lean fingers over the well-chiselled and handsome features of these, light-limbed, large-bodied sons of the soil, whose courteous salutes it almost fatigues the hand of the traveller to return as he bends his steps from Navan towards the Liffey. These are emphatically the Irish peasantry; and as we look at their shrewd and daring countenance, their light, energetic tread, and frames so well fitted for endurance and exertion, we feel a mingled pride and apprehension—a pleasing

dread—a glow of congratulation that we are the countrymen of such spirits as these men could furnish in a good cause, a thrill of anxiety that these very men, at the moment they delight us by their vivacity, and charm us by their urbanity, may perhaps be engaged in secret designs the most formidable and atrocious.” He seems to extend this picture to the people of “the whole of the central plain from Monaghan to Cork, from Kildare to Galway.”

77. In October, 1837, the *British and Foreign Review* says:—“The Irishman is proverbially generous, improvident, and brave. It is the axe of the Irish backwoodsman that has opened so many districts of America to the ploughshare; amid the laborious inhabitants of busy England, the work requiring the greatest exertion of human labour and the largest amount of physical endurance falls to his share; wherever enterprise has penetrated, there he is to be found foremost in the work of toil or in the path of danger.”

78. In 1839, Gustave de Beaumont, a Frenchman, wrote:—“In the ancient chronicles of Ireland we find that love of work was one of the distinctive characteristics of the Irish people.” And again he tells us that an English engineer said to him:—“I have been intrusted by the English Government

with the direction of public works both in England and Ireland, and I have been obliged to employ by turns English and Irish workmen. I confess that, after the double trial, it would be an impossibility for me to award a superiority to either. The Irish workman cannot be judged at the outset. He first begins by mistrusting his employer; he is continually under the impression that some advantage is going to be taken of him, and that he will be made to work without being paid. Hence, his work is sluggish, unequal, and irregular, and requires constant watching. But when he perceives that the agreement made with him is honestly carried out; when at the end of each week he receives the fruit of his toil, and sees that he has been honestly dealt with, he then takes heart; and I am unable to express the indefatigable ardour, the constancy and punctuality, with which the unfortunate man works, who just before thought himself doomed to die of hunger, and who has found the means of living."

79. In 1840 (?) Dr. Arnold, in his *History of Rome*, remarks, that "there was one point in which the difference between the Celtic race in ancient and modern times has been unduly exaggerated. The Greek and Roman writers invariably describe the Gauls as a tall and light-haired race in comparison with their own countrymen; but it has been main-

tained that there must be some confusion, in these descriptions, between the Gauls and the Germans, inasmuch as the Celtic nations now existing are all dark-haired. The statement was sent to Niebuhr by some Englishman,* and Niebuhr, taking the fact for granted, on his correspondent's authority, was naturally much perplexed by it. But had he travelled ever so rapidly through Wales or Ireland, or had he cast a glance on any of those groups of Irish labourers who are constantly to be met with in summer on all the roads in England, he would have at once perceived that his perplexity had been needless. Compared with the Italians, it would be certainly true that the Celtic nations were generally both *light-haired and tall*. I should not have ventured to speak so confidently merely from my own observation; but Dr. Pritchard, who has for many years turned his attention to this question, assures me that he is perfectly satisfied as to the truth of the fact there stated; to me it is only surprising that anyone should have thought of disputing it."

80. 1840 (?). From measurements made by Professor Forbes, of Edinburgh," on *students* at his University, and by Quetelet on Belgian *students* of the same class, we have the following tables:—

*Some ignorant bigot.—E.H.

STATURE IN INCHES.

Age.	Irish.	Scots.	English.	Belgians.
18	68·7	68·5	61·1	67·2
19	69·4	68·9	68·5	67·7
20	69·8	69·1	68·7	67·9
21	70·0	69·2	68·8	68·0
22	70·1	69·2	68·9	68·1
23	70·2	69·3	68·9	68·2

STRENGTH IN POUNDS.

Age.	Irish.	Scots.	English.	Belgians.
18	389	360	364	280
19	404	378	378	296
20	416	392	385	310
21	423	402	392	322
22	427	410	397	330
23	430 .	417	401	335

According to *Chambers' Information for the People*, "This table places the Irishmen uppermost in the scale of stature. The comparison seems fair as regards the parties taken, for if there were any peculiarity in their condition as students, it must have been common to all. As a comparison of national heights, therefore, the table, perhaps, exhibits conclusions pretty generally applicable, and we shall find it borne out by similar comparisons of weight and strength."*

81. In 1840 (?) Mr. Field, an eminent mechanical engineer of London, examined the relative powers of British and Irish *labourers* to raise weights by a crane. He communicated his results to the Institute

* See also *Chambers' Encyclopædia*, Vol. vi., p. 294.

of Civil Engineers in London. He found that the utmost effort of a man, lifting at the rate of one foot per minute, ranged as follows:—

The Irish	from 17,325 lbs. to 27,562 lbs.
The English	„ 11,505 lbs. „ 24,255 lbs.
The Welsh	15,112 lbs.

82. In the year 1844, Grant, an Englishman, in his *Impressions of Ireland*, says:—“Nothing can be more *extreme* than the poverty of the peasants—yet I never saw a set of finer-looking children than those you meet with in the *poorer districts*. They far surpass, in the comeliness of their little countenances, the children of this country (England). I saw hundreds of them, whom I thought *perfect pictures* from the regularity of their features and the regularity of their forms. It is true, as they advance in years, they lose the singular beauty which characterises them in early life. This is to be attributed to the hard destiny of their lives. Englishmen would perish in masses were they compelled to work as hard on such scanty food.”

83. In 1849, George Lewis Smith, of Bridge Street, Westminster, in *Ireland Historical and Statistical*:—“If the Irish, as a people, have one fault more prominent than another, it is that of self-adulation: they praise themselves and their country*—

* I wish they did; other nations praise themselves and their country, as I know from a residence of eleven years among them.—E. H.

immoderately. . . . But . . . the inherent good qualities of the common people in Ireland have long and justly been the common theme of praise. The leading orator and movement-man of his age delighted to call them 'the finest peasantry on the face of the earth!' Superlative commendation that, and facts are neither few nor inconsiderable, which go far to bear it fully out. With all their faults . . . the peasantry of Ireland will stand the test of the severest examination of their claims to the possession of some of the best qualities human nature can display. Speaking contemptuously of the Irish peasant has grown into fashion.

"What is the poor Irishman's cabin?—mud! His food?—a single vegetable! Yet how quick is his intelligence; how apt his capacity; how refined his wit; how warm his affections; how constant his attachment; how patient and untiring his industry!" (Here he quotes Gerald Barry, Holingshed, and Lord Macartney, whose words I give at pp. 19, 24, 46, and he adds): "The ancients and moderns paint the Irish peasant in the same colours, and with the same features, and endow him with the same qualities. Is he a person on whom to vent reproaches? For centuries—and such centuries!—he has not degenerated. Fate ordained that he should not improve, but he would not let her make him worse. Gerald

Barry's old description of the Irish, as 'strong, bold, martial, prodigal in war, nimble, stout, haughty of heart, careless of life, but greedy of glory,' is one in which it is easy to recognise the salient characteristics of the present race. We feel, as we read it, that the author is dealing with no mean order of men; and we trust him on this point the more readily, because we are able to test his account of the country itself."

84. In 1852, the Rev. E. Marcus Dill, M.A., M.D., Missionary agent of the Irish Presbyterian Church, in a book, *On the Cause and Cure of Ireland's Miseries*, attributes to Popery "the wreck of the finest people the Creator ever formed. If you look at his body, where will you find a hardier? One cannot see without wondering how nature can manufacture such bone and sinew out of food so wretched; and within that robust frame dwells a spirit whose buoyant vivacity years of sorrow have not destroyed."

85. In 1852, Frederick Lucas, an Englishman, in a private letter to Mr. Riethmüller, says:—"The Irish are the most ill-treated, and, in all the essential qualities of heart and character, the noblest population that ever existed on the earth."

86. In 1854, De Lasteyrie, in *Revue des Deux Mondes*, December 15th, says:—"The Irish race

possesses every charm, grace, eloquence, beauty, and misfortune . . . the tone of the English towards the Irish is execrable."

87. In 1858, Lord Palmerston:—"The number of Irish is now set down as half the army, but it was above that. Soon after the Crimean war, a debate took place in the British House of Commons, when the 23rd Welsh Fusiliers were very highly spoken of, and the country that gave birth to such men lauded to the skies. Sir John Gray, member for Kilkenny, was in his place during this debate, and, knowing that the 23rd Welsh Fusiliers were composed of others besides Welshmen, he called for a return of the different countries to which the men who composed this certainly brave regiment belonged; it was ordered to be furnished. The regiment at the time numbered nearly 1,000 men, and out of that number there were 700 Irishmen in the 23rd Welsh Fusiliers. Lord Palmerston was very much annoyed about this motion being made, and said he trusted "honourable members would in future refrain from making insulting remarks on the Irish people, who were conspicuous for their gallantry, *and from whom one-half of the whole British army was recruited.*"

From the official returns from the Adjutant-General's Office, April 29th, 1841, these were the

proportions of English, Irish, and Scotch in the British armies in those years:—

In 1830, English, 44,329 ; Irish, 42,897 ; Scotch, 13,800.

In 1840, ditto, 51,559 ; ditto, 41,218 ; ditto, 15,239.

88. In 1861, the French Bishop, Dupanloup, in a sermon at St. Roch, said:—"Surely the nations of Europe and humanity itself have reason to be proud of the Irish race. I know no people around whom their patriotism, their pure morals, their courageous faith, their unconquerable fidelity, their bravery, their disinterestedness . . . their poetry, their eloquence, and all these noble qualities, though ever persecuted, never cast down, exalted and crowned by misfortune, have thrown a halo more captivating and more sorrowful."

89. In February, 1867, Lord Dufferin wrote to the *Times*:—"Ireland is a lovely and fertile island, inhabited by a race valiant, tender, generous, gifted beyond measure with the power of physical endurance, and graced with the liveliest intelligence."

90. In 1873, the American, Dr. Brownson, writes: "After the Irish, we count the Spanish race the finest and noblest in the world, though greatly deteriorated. The power of endurance of the Irish race is most wonderful. Naturally, the race is remarkable for its rare physical development ; and it furnishes specimens of both manly and female

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beauty and strength unmatched in any other known race. The Irish, and their congeners the Scotch, surpass in physical strength and hardness, it has been ascertained, every other European people. This may, in part at least, be explained by their general freedom from vice and immorality, by the pure and virtuous lives of the women of the race, for which they have been distinguished in all ages."

91. In 1880, Mr. Bonwick, F.R.G.S., in his book styled *Our Nationalities*, p. 82, says:—"Irish women of old had a reputation for beauty far beyond the bounds of the Isle of Saints. They had, what is far better, a reputation of faithfulness to their lords, too little rewarded by a return of the quality in those rude days."

92. In 1881, Froude, in his *English in Ireland* (vol. i., pp. 11-22), says:—"The courage of the Irish was undisputed. From the first mention of the Irishman in history, faction fight and foray have been the occupation and delight of his existence. The hardihood of the Irish kern was proverbial throughout Europe. The Irish soldiers in the regular service of France and Spain covered themselves with distinction, were ever honoured with the most dangerous posts, have borne their share in every victory. In our own ranks they have formed half the strength of our armies, and detraction has never challenged

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their right to an equal share in the honour which those armies have won. The Irish Celts possess on their own soil a power greater than any known family of mankind of assimilating those who venture amongst them to their own image. Light-hearted, humorous, imaginative, susceptible through the whole range of feeling, from the profoundest feeling to the most playful jest, passionate in everything, passionate in their patriotism, passionate in their religion, passionately courageous, passionately loyal and affectionate."

93. In 1886, in an address delivered in presence of the Irish Viceroy, Lord Aberdeen, the President of the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland, said:—"Irishmen had contributed more largely to the army and navy of the United Kingdom than any other nationality. I recollect at the time when Mr. Herbert was secretary the army statistics showed that 47 per cent. of the army were Irishmen, and 70 per cent. of the officers were Irishmen."

94. In 1886, June 19, Mr. John Morley said:—"I, for one, have long had a high appreciation of the great qualities of the Irish people. They have done the greatest part of the hard work of the world. Generations of Irish peasants have reclaimed the land—the harsh, thankless land of the bog and the mountain-side, have reclaimed that land, knowing that the fruit of their labour would be confiscated in

the shape of rent. And the Irish have piety, they have reverence, and they have had, and they had only too much, docility. They know how to follow leaders, and I am persuaded that there is in Ireland all the material out of which, with time, freedom, and responsibility, you may build a solid nation, worthy to take its place among the other nations that have the British flag waving over them."

95. In 1886, Nov. 7, the Special Commissioner of the *Journal des Débats* wrote from Dublin:—"The people very much resemble an English crowd as to costume, but there is in their physiognomies more vivacity and expression than in those of the English. This difference strikes one at first. At the same time you do not observe a very well-accentuated national type, and up to the present I have not seen the Irishman of the English illustrated papers. It is very possible that this type of Irishman is as unreal as the typical Frenchman invented by the same artists. One very remarkable trait is presented by the great majority of the people here. I refer to their eyes, which are of a blue faience, frank, brilliant, and eager. Brunettes as well as blondes have blue eyes, and of the daughters of the people, in rags, with bare feet, and a woollen shawl over their heads, some are remarkably handsome, the contrast between their eyes and their jet black hair being very piquant."

Another Frenchman, Elie Réclus, writes:—"In a few of the remote districts the aspect of the inhabitants is almost that of savages, their small eyes, low foreheads, and tangled hair giving them the appearance of Tartars. But, as a rule, the Irish are a fine race, notwithstanding the small, turned-up nose which at once enables us to pick out a son of Erin amongst a crowd of Englishmen.* The natives of Joyce's County in Connemara are of almost gigantic stature, with fine limbs and strong muscles. The men of Tipperary, though smaller, are no less strong, and are distinguished for their agility and grace. Comparative measurements made in the Universities of the United Kingdom prove that the young men of Trinity College, Dublin, do not yield in stature or strength to their rivals of Oxford, Cambridge, Glasgow or Edinburgh; nay, that they are even slightly their superiors. Even Englishmen, such as Thackeray, in his *Irish Sketch-book*, admits that most Irishwomen, who are able to lead a life of ease and to nourish their beauty, are of more distinguished appearance than Englishwomen. There are few countries in Europe whose women possess so much true dignity and self-respect. In many districts of Ireland, even the peasant women, notwithstanding their arduous labour, are indebted to

* This is an echo of our Trinity College friend of 1836.—E. H.

their race for noble features and a proud carriage, which would attract attention anywhere.”*

96. I have reserved for the last the results recently arrived at by scientific men. In his treatises, “On the Bulk and Stature of the People of Great Britain,”* and *The Races of Britain*, Dr. Beddoe writes:—“The Irish military returns overtop the English by a quarter of an inch. Taken, altogether, the Irish were and are, at all events under favourable *media*, a tall race. Whatever an importation of old Norsemen and modern Scotchmen may have done, one of modern Southern English and Welsh is more likely to have lowered the standard than to have raised it. The large-boned, long-headed, hard-featured, grey-eyed, dark-brown-haired men yield the common type of the Irish Kelt. The Irish, as a whole, are considerably lighter in eye, but yet more considerably darker in hair than the English as a whole. The concave noses are far from being as common as is supposed. The really predominant form is the long, sinuous, and prominent, especially at the point. In Ireland, East and North England, the concave nose is only

* Réclus' *Universal Geography*, translated by Ravenstein. Div. viii., p. 402.

† *Races of Britain*, pp. 266, 238, 142, and 27, Vol. iii. of *Memoirs of the Anthropological Society*, “On the Bulk and Stature of the People of Great Britain.”

18 per cent., while in Gloucestershire and Denmark it is 20, and in Sweden 26 per cent."

97. In 1882-3 the Report of the Anthropometric Committee says:—"As to light hair and light eyes the proportions per cent. are, Ireland, 47·4; Scotland, 46·3; England, 40·1; Wales, 34·6; of red hair the Welsh per-centage is 8·2; Scotch, 4·2; English, 2·7; Irish, 2·5. The stature of *Irish Recruits* is 5 ft. 8·04; the *Scotch*, 5 ft. 8·3; *English*, 5 ft. 7·71." It quotes the statistics of the United States Army as giving the average stature of those examined for admission into that army as follows: "3,476 Scots, 67·07 inches; 30,557 Irish, 66·74; 16,196 English, 66·58; 54,944 Germans, 66·54; 1,104 Welsh, 66·42; 1,302 Swiss, 66·38; 3,343 French, 66·28."

Here the Scots overtop the Irish, but perhaps this might be accounted for by the relative numbers. Again, the Scots surpass the Irish in stature in Table I. of the Antropometrical Committee, but then the Irish were "almost entirely" immigrants, who are of the poorest class, and could not fairly represent the Irish in general or the agricultural classes at home; and "the Committee regrets that it has not been able to obtain more than one return direct from Ireland." The results, in inches, were Scots, 68·71; Irish, 67·90; English, 67·36; Welsh,

66·66 ; and the Irish are the lowest in weight. Only 346 Irish were measured, and, curiously enough, we find the height, for Connacht, 68·73 ; Munster, 68·52 ; Ulster, 68·41 ; Leinster, 68·21. From these returns the Committee says: "The western provinces of Ireland possess a higher stature similar to the Scotch Highlands, with which they may have a common racial origin, while the lower stature of the eastern provinces is probably traceable to the comparatively recent Scotch and English immigrations. The Irish returns are, however, too few to be relied on, until they are confirmed by more extended inquiries." These returns, indeed, are quite misleading, for I have been informed by Mr. French, of Trinity College, Dublin, that so good a judge as Dr. O'Donovan often declared in his hearing, that "the finest and biggest men of Ireland are to be found in Wexford and in that part of Tipperary which is nearest to Wexford." He meant, I think, the people of the quadrilateral formed by the towns of Wexford, Waterford, Cashel and Kilkenny. Dr. Beddoe, who agrees with O'Donovan, says: "The people of North and West Wexford and in the city of Waterford and its neighbourhood are tall and fair ; the prevailing type in the county of Tipperary, though very often brilliantly fair, is not

English. In West Cavan the people are fair, large-limbed, comely, and smooth-featured.

“Scotch recruits are about equal to those of Leinster and Munster in stature and weight, and superior in both respects to the Irish taken collectively, and they clearly exceed in girth of chest both English and Irish, though the Welsh may equal them in this point. The Welsh recruits weigh heaviest, but their stature is considerably lower than that of the Irish. The English vary very much. Some agricultural counties yield large men, but on the whole they do not quite equal even the Welsh in stature, or the Irish in weight; and this seems to be mainly due to the low average of the recruits from the metropolis and from manufacturing districts, and to the short stature (perhaps a race character) prevailing in the south-eastern, or Saxon part of England. At Bristol, the Munster men inspected compare pretty favourably with those from the neighbouring districts, to whom they are decidedly superior in girth of chest; and at Liverpool the Irish have the advantage in all three respects of the native Lancashire recruits.”

98. In 1862 the war correspondent of the *London Times* wrote of Fredericksburg:—“The battle which had dashed furiously against the lines of Generals Hood, A. P. Hill, and Early, was little more than

child's play as compared with the onslaught directed by the Federals in the immediate neighbourhood of Fredericksburg. The impression that the Confederate batteries would not fire heavily on the Federals advancing in this quarter, for fear of destroying the town of Fredericksburg, is believed to have prevailed amongst the Northern Generals. How bitterly they deceived themselves subsequent events served to show. To the Irish division, commanded by General Meagher, was principally committed the desperate task of bursting out of Fredericksburg, and forming under the withering fire of the Confederate batteries, to attack Mairé's Heights, towering immediately in their front. Never at Fontenoy, at Albuera, or at Waterloo, was more undaunted courage displayed by the sons of Erin than during the six frantic dashes which they directed against their foes. . . . After witnessing the gallantry and devotion exhibited by these troops, and viewing the hill sides for acres, strewn with their corpses as thick as autumnal leaves, the spectator can remember nothing but their desperate courage, and regret that it was not exhibited in a better cause. That any mortal men could have carried the position before which they were wantonly sacrificed, defended as it was, seems to me idle for a moment to believe. But the bodies which lie in

dense masses, within forty yards of the muzzles of Colonel Walton's guns, are the best evidence what manner of men they were who pressed on to death with the dauntlessness of a race which has gained glory on a thousand battle fields, and never more richly deserved it than at the foot of Maire's Heights, 13th December, 1862."



CHAPTER IV.

THE HEIGHT, FORM, AND FEATURES OF THE PEASANTRY
OF MAYO, SLIGO, LEITRIM, AND THE FEWS.

At pages 27 and 28 I have printed the statements of the *Dublin University Magazine*, of Bréau de Quatrefages, and Karl Vogt. I submitted those statements to noblemen and gentlemen well acquainted with those counties, and got communications from them, with leave to publish their views. It will be seen by the extracts from their letters, still in my possession, and by actual measurements, that those people are about half a foot taller than they have been described, and are well-built and comely.

99. Major Arthur B. Leech, well-known in connection with the International Irish Rifle Team, writes:—"Fitton House, Cork, 31st August, 1886. Dear Father Hogan, I am very glad to have the opportunity of helping you in any way to repel and contradict the scandalous and foolish statements, wherever made, respecting the peasantry of Mayo, Sligo, and Leitrim counties, to which you draw my

attention, and which it is so creditable to you to be anxious to refute. I have travelled the world nearly all over, and have lived in countries and amongst people sufficiently long to know them, and I can say that, for physique, intelligence, and warm-heartedness, I never met anything so acceptable as what I have seen in my own country; and my native county of Sligo was at all times remarkable for its fine men and beautiful women. This remark is equally applicable to the Counties of Mayo and Leitrim, with which I am also familiar. But the happiest days of my life were spent in Sligo county where I was intimately associated with the people as land agent to a large estate for many years. The tenantry were over, as well as I remember, eight hundred heads of families. During the years I was amongst them I never had a disagreeable word with them. I even raised the rents; or rather the people themselves stated what was a fair rent and I adopted it. The libel attempted to be cast upon them by ignorant or malicious writers is so nonsensical that I would hardly think it worthy of notice, only that you have so patriotically interposed to brand the falsehood as such, and do justice to a peasantry who are in stature, vigour, and generous instincts, second to none other on the face of the globe.

"*The libel is one of the very worst* I have seen in all my life; it is brutally untrue and unworthy, and the people of those districts, perhaps, after all, should claim to be defended against it.—Yours very faithfully, ARTHUR B. LEECH."

100. William K. Sullivan, Esq., LL.D., President of the Queen's College, Cork:—"Queen's College, Cork, August 31st, 1886, I have never seen the libel you refer to . . . M. de Quatrefages ought to have been above printing as a scientific fact what is obviously the stupid and malignant invention of some of the purveyors of rubbish I have alluded to. The original statement is no doubt an invention inspired by *Punch* or some other comic journal. I have not only seen the Connaught harvest men, but I have been in the district you name, not only before the famine of 1847-48 when I was through all the western district on foot, but on several occasions, and I have no hesitation in saying that the account given by M. de Quatrefages and Dr. Hall—as given in your letter—is entirely untrue. In some of the districts poverty and emigration have deteriorated the population in some degree since I first knew them; but the description you have quoted never applied to them.*—WILLIAM K. SULLIVAN."

*The date of the letter is torn off; it was written at the same time as Major Leech's letter.

101. Colonel Cooper of Markree Castle, Co. Sligo, Lord Lieutenant of the Co. Sligo, and an Officer of the Guards and 7th Hussars:—"Markree Castle, Collooney, 31st August, 1886. I am afraid any remarks I may make in reply to your inquiries will not be worth much as they are only the result of my own observations, which are limited and are of no scientific value, but such as they are they are at your service. The extract you sent me is I know the received description of the physical condition of the Celtic Irish, who on several occasions have found a refuge in Connaught, but to my mind it applies more correctly to the corner boys of towns than to the rural population of the present day.

"The type of the Sligo peasant is broad and thickset *rather than tall*, and old people have told me that in former days, man for man, the Sligo militia covered more ground than the Munster regiments.

"With regard to the inhabitants of the Sligo mountains, my own observations refer now particularly to the valleys and glens of the Ox range, and I should say that the people inhabiting them were physically rather above the average of the rest of the county, and are as a rule better clothed, for they to some extent still make their own flannel, linen,

and frieze, though I am sorry to say the practice is going out.

“They are much poorer than they were a few years ago, the holdings are small and much of their land is of indifferent quality, but they have abundance of turf for fuel and the run of the mountains attached to their holdings gives them grazing for a number of cattle, and thus enables them to keep their houses warm, and to provide plenty of milk for themselves and their families.

“One glen in particular, Glen Easky, was completely isolated until I made a road into it about fifteen years ago, and I should say the average height of the men was and is *six* feet. You certainly do see occasionally curious specimens of an apparently inferior race, and I have often noticed them in Ballina on market days.

“As the Connaught winter assizes have been frequently held in Sligo, I have had opportunities of seeing the witnesses, many of them Irish-speaking, from very wild districts in Mayo and Galway, *physically they were not, in my opinion, inferior to any race.* One of the *finest and handsomest* young fellows I ever saw came from Letterfrack. To a great extent I was glad to notice that these people still wore their native dress, much more becoming and better suited to a damp climate

than the fashionable bonnets and hats with tawdry flowers and draggled feathers which the women in this county have generally adopted. The working peasants of this county, I cannot speak for Mayo or Leitrim, are *fairly good-looking, not unlike the Scotch*, but you do not see amongst the women the beauty I remember years ago seeing in Galway and the South of Ireland.

“I have shown this letter, and I have spoken, to several friends who know different districts in this county and the borders of Roscommon, and they agree with what I have stated.

“No doubt hardships were inflicted on the native Irish after the rebellions of 1641 and 1689 in the same way, and probably not more than the English settlers had previously suffered. The race, therefore, may have deteriorated for a time, but by the survival of the fittest I suppose we have now in this part of Ireland a strong, healthy, long-lived and prolific race.”

102. 31st August, 1886. Colonel Wood-Martin, of Cleveragh, Co. Sligo, Deputy Lieutenant of Co. Sligo, and Colonel of the Sligo Artillery:—“I have had the opinions of three gentlemen, who live on the borders of Mayo and Sligo, and who represent the natives as a ‘fine race of men.’ I regret that I have lost their letters, but I can give this excerpt

from one—The Sligo people, though showing types of our various races, are still a fair, well-featured, remarkably intelligent, intellectual-looking people, and, to my mind, are the finest peasantry in Ireland.”

103. Colonel Raleigh Chichester, an Englishman : —“ 11 Vincent Street, South Circular-Road, Dublin, September 21, 1886. I lived for about twelve years continuously in Roscommon, and I suppose the Mayo and Sligo men are much of the same sort. There are among Connaughtmen (but not as a characteristic feature) cases of ‘open, projecting mouths, prominent teeth, and exposed gums and advancing cheekbones.’ ‘Depressed noses,’ where they exist, are probably the result of applied physical force, but not congenital. ‘Five feet two inches upon an average, pot-bellied, bow-legged’—*all this is nonsense*. There are no signs of deterioration in any part of Ireland that I am acquainted with, and I know something of Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Roscommon, Galway, Mayo. I think the population of Connaught is somewhat shorter and more hard-featured than the people in other parts of Ireland ; but I do not recognise them in the descriptions of Hall and Quatrefages. They are physically able, and uncommonly shrewd. I also doubt the power

of occasional famines to affect the characteristics of a race."

104. Maurice C. J. Blake, Esq., Lieutenant-Colonel of the North Mayo Militia, Deputy Lieutenant of Co. Mayo, of Tower Hill, Mayo, and Bunowen Castle, Co. Galway:—"Bunowen Castle, August 15th, 1886. I should fancy that in 19th century statements of that kind bear their own refutation on their face. The average height of the Battalion under my command is 5 feet 5½ inches,* and from my knowledge of the Galway and Roscommon regiments, I think they would be over 5 feet 6 inches. From where I write in the far west of Connemara the men are a very fine race, averaging fully 5 feet 8 inches, and they are so along the west coast of Galway. In the southern parts of Galway, and in most of Mayo the men are not so large; but will bear favourable comparison with the peasantry of most countries in Europe, and exceed many. I speak from experience, as I have travelled over a great portion of the Continent. The Connaught regiments could, in the time of the Napoleonic war, and now, hold their own with any regiments in the service. I know well the county Mayo (in which I reside), of Galway and Roscommon,

* The militia contains many lads not fully grown.—E. H.

and I can safely say, the statement that the peasants would remind one of the lowest type of Australian savages is *utterly without foundation*."

105. The Marquis of Sligo, who has about 115,000 acres in Mayo:—"Losely Park, Guildford, August 25th, 1886. As to height, Mayo men and other Irishmen, seem to me quite as tall and as well made as English and other nations, in their youth. In old age they are more upright than the English, as they are not bent down by hard work as in England."

106. The Earl of Granard, Lord Lieutenant of Leitrim, and Lieutenant-Colonel of the 9th battalion Rifle Brigade:—"Castle Forbes, August 7th, 1886. I am thoroughly acquainted with Leitrim, having property there, and having spent most of my life on its borders. I can, and do therefore, bear accurate and willing testimony to the *utter untruth* of the dwarf theory. The people of Leitrim are a fine, good-looking, well-grown race, both men and women; the best proof that they are not dwarfs, is, that numbers of them are in the Royal Irish Constabulary.

"I can say the same of the Sligo people; and as for the fishermen on the Sligo coast, it would be hard to find a finer or hardier race."

107. Sir Andrew Reed, C.B., Inspector-General of

the Royal Irish Constabulary :—"Constabulary Office, Dublin Castle, 14th November, 1894. Mr. Thynne" (Deputy Inspector-General of the R.I.C.) "and I are of opinion that the extract from Bréau de Quatrefages' *L'Unité de l'Espèce Humaine* is a completely erroneous description of the peasantry of the counties of Mayo and Sligo. We get an unusually large number of recruits for the Royal Irish Constabulary from those counties, and the minimum height for the R.I.C. is 5 feet 9 inches."

Through Sir A. Reed I got the following information collected by W. T. Croghan, Esq., County Inspector of Armagh, from the Constabulary officers of the districts, which embrace the Upper and Lower Fews baronies: "The average height of the peasantry in the baronies named would be 5 feet 6½ inches. They are equal in features and physique to their neighbours in the County Armagh, but rather inferior in features to the peasantry of Down; inferior in both respects to the peasantry of Louth; equal in features but not in physique to those of Monaghan."

108. Lord Walter Fitzgerald, uncle of the Duke of Leinster, Captain in the King's Royal Rifle Corps :—"Kilkea Castle, 20th November, 1894. . . . That lying statement as to the Mayo peasantry astonished me greatly, as, though I have

travelled through the Co. Mayo, I never remember having seen a specimen of the type described; and indeed they struck me as a kindly, hardy, and fine race of men."

109. William E. O'Shea, Esq., a native of Limerick, Sub-Inspector of the R. I. Constabulary:—"May 21, 1870, Easky, Sligo. The Sligo peasant is not so tall or well made as the Limerick man, and appears to me thinner and more delicate altogether—5 feet 8 inches is about the average height.

"They are well featured as a rule, without prominent cheek-bones, mouth rather small; average-sized, straight or Roman noses prevail—the 'celestial' is at a discount. I have remarked the absence of *rosy* faces; the expression is generally more serious than in the South, and is a little care-worn. In Erris and Tyrawly the people are decidedly inferior in *physique* to my immediate neighbours" (of North Sligo).

110. James W. Raleigh, Esq., a native of Clare, former District-Inspector of Constabulary in Leitrim, wrote while stationed in Kildare County, in 1886:—"The peasants of Mayo, Leitrim, and Sligo, are about 5 feet 7 inches or 5 feet 8; they are as comely as the Irish of other parts, but not as tall as the people of Clare."

111. Two English gentlemen, who travelled on foot in Mayo, wrote for me at Achill:—"The people of Achill appear to be much above the average height, are well built, carry themselves well. In feature they are decidedly handsome and wear a pleasant expression. The children seem to me particularly beautiful. I have seen no signs of degradation such as low stature, pot-belly, bandy legs, and high cheekbones. I have also an acquaintance with the people round Belmullet, in the Mullet itself, and also in North Mayo; and I should say that they were by no means an inferior race, but tall, fine and handsome.—LOFTUS H. K. BUSHE Fox, M.A., LL.B., of Cambridge University, Barrister-at-Law of the Inner Temple. Achill, Aug. 28, 1891."

"So far as Achill is concerned, I can fully endorse the above remarks. Particularly, I should say, the height of the men is above the average. My experience is limited to Achill.—JOHN COLLIER, M.A., of Cambridge University, Solicitor. Achill, Aug. 28, 1891."

112. W. F. Wakeman, Esq., the well-known Archæologist—"May 10th, 1894, Royal Irish Academy:—As an artist employed by Colonel Cooper, of Mackree Castle, to make for him drawings of all the antiquities of Sligo, it was my fortune, during several summers, recently passed, to visit

every portion of that most interesting district. During my tours, which were very often made on foot, I had much intercourse with the native population, a race which it struck me possessed in the highest degree evidence of a descent from noble ancestors. The Sligo people, as a rule, are tall, well built, active and comely. They are generally light-haired, with blue or dark-grey eyes. I found them most civil, obliging, and intelligent; high spirited, and, as far as they could be, hospitable. Here is an instance in point—when about leaving the much maligned Island of Innismurray (about four miles and a-half from the coast of Sligo) where I had been for some days engaged in sketching, I tendered my host a very moderate sum in payment for the trouble which I had caused himself and family. About one-third of this he insisted on returning to me, declaring that he had been offered too much. On another occasion, on the same island, a fine strapping youth, who had carried my portfolio and great coat nearly a whole day, and had largely assisted in taking measurements, stoutly declined to receive the piece of silver which I offered in return. I then bethought me of presenting him with some tobacco, which he joyfully accepted, saying that ‘tobacco was a present which one gentleman might receive from another.’

“The Mayo people did not appear to me to quite equal those of Sligo in height and figure—but I was not very much through that county—I might say the same in reference to the natives of Leitrim and their territory. For nearly two years I resided in the north of England in a district of Yorkshire, which was believed to produce the grandest specimens of the Englishman. It is my firm conviction that the average Sligo man is physically and mentally the superior of the average Yorkshireman.”

113. Thomas Tighe, Esq., Deputy-Lieutenant of the County of Mayo:—“The Heath, Claremorris, Nov. 18, 1894. I was much surprised to learn that in some English, French, and German books our Mayo migratory labourers are described as being ‘5 feet 2 inches high, potbellied and bowlegged.’ This is a gross libel. I have seen the special trains taking them to and from England for forty years, and I could only describe them as as fine, fresh, vigorous, stalwart a body of young men as could be found. Their average height would be, say 5 feet 7 inches. I have lately had some friends staying with me whose families are residents of the chief migratory localities, and they were astonished at so palpable a falsehood. They were unanimous in fixing 5 feet 8 inches as the average, and neither

they nor myself ever saw the potbelly, and indeed, rarely the bowleg."

114. John MacCluskey, a Guard of the Sligo Coach, and afterwards Guard on the Midland Great Western Railway, said to me that "these Westerns were about 5 feet 7 inches high, of rather classic mould—that is, not Apollos or Adonises, but what the Greeks were in the flesh. . . . There are some very fine men among the Mayo people." This guard had special opportunities of seeing those peasants; and that he had an observant turn of mind will appear from his cross-examination in the witness-box, which runs thus:—

"Mr. Heron—Had you an opportunity of judging if Mr. S. was able to take care of himself?

"Witness—I suppose I must answer the question?

"Mr. Carleton, Q.C.—Indeed you must.

"Chief Justice—There is nothing confidential here—everything is above board (laughter).

"Witness—Well, he was not sufficiently sober to know that he was drunk (laughter).

"Mr. Heron, Q.C.—In your opinion, then, if he knew he was drunk he would be more sober (renewed laughter).

"Witness—I can explain all the phases of it—I know every stage of it, if you don't deem it personal (great laughter).

"Mr. Heron, Q.C.—Not a bit; go on. What is the first stage? To drink.

"What is the second? To feel that you have taken drink.

"What's the third? To feel it a little stronger (laughter).

"What's the fourth? Shaky (laughter).

"The fifth?—Drunk (renewed laughter).

"The sixth?—You are unconscious and don't know you are drunk (laughter).

"And in your opinion was the plaintiff unconscious enough not to know he was drunk? I believe he was not sober enough to know it.

"What's the seventh stage of all that ends this eventful history? *Delirium tremens*" (great laughter).

115. Charles Corbett, Esq., C.E., Superintendent, Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland:—
"Broadstone Station, 20th September, 1886. About 20,000 harvestmen travel each year to England, and back when the harvest is over. I have, therefore, a good opportunity of seeing these men. They average about 5 feet 9 inches, are fine, well-made fellows; but their dress is not calculated to make them look to advantage. I can safely say that if drilled, well fed, and in soldiers' uniform they would look quite equal to any other men in Ireland, and I believe

we can compare favourably with any other country. I have ascertained, however, on good authority, that the men, from bad feeding and hard work, begin to fail from about 40 to 50 years of age. I give you the names, addresses, and heights of nine of those harvesters out of a number photographed with me, while I held an engineer's swelling staff in my hand. I guarantee that not one was selected from appearance or height, but taken as I could get them to stand before getting into the carriage at the North Wall, Dublin; you see that the average is 5 feet 9 inches in their shoes."

116. Mr. John Johnston, an ex-Constabulary man, a native of Fermanagh, proprietor of Bay View Hotel, Achill, Co. Mayo:—"September 1st, 1891. The North Mayo men generally are not so tall of stature as the Kildare men, nor so big, soft or stout as the men of Kildare, Fermanagh, Cavan or Tyrone. Their average height is about 5 feet 9 inches."

117. The Rev. Robert I. Hayes, B.A., Incumbent of Achill, Mayo, ex-Curate of Castlebar, Mayo, and native of Wexford County:—"August 20th, 1891. Comparing the people of Achill Island and those of the Co. of Mayo around Castlebar with the people of Wexford, especially in the barony of Forth, with which districts I am familiar, I should say that one

is not struck with any disparity in height, nor are the features of the people, as a rule, unpleasant. You will see many really finely built men and women in Achill, and if the men do not appear as robust as those in the Eastern and Northern Counties it is easily accounted for by their inferior diet."

118. John King, Esq., Barony Cess Collector of the Fews:—"Lurgana, Whitecross, Co. Armagh, April 11, 1898. The average height of the men of the Upper Fews is 5 feet 8 inches to 6 feet; but in the southern division they are, I should say, from 5 feet 7 to 5 feet 10, they are smaller and hardier. On the whole, they compare favourably with any of the adjoining counties."

119. R. H. Dorman, Esq., County Surveyor of the Co. Armagh:—"County Surveyor's Office, Armagh, April 15, 1898. I consider that the peasantry of Upper Fews are generally taller than the peasantry in other parts of Armagh. I do not think the peasantry of Lower Fews are much, if anything, above the average height."

120. E. T. Reid, Esq., Barony Cess Collector of Lower Fews:—"17 Dobbryn Street, Armagh, 18th April, 1898. The average height of the natives of Lower Fews, I would say, could not be less than 5 feet 8½ inches. Taking the southern or more Celtic portion by itself, it would be over 5 feet 9 inches.

I know part of the Upper Fews; the people there are about the same average height as those of southern Lower Fews. The question as to features is rather difficult to answer. In the north of the Barony of Lower Fews the people are superior in features, but inferior in physique, to those of the upper portion and the south of the Lower Barony. The natives of the Fews are, in many particulars, very like their neighbours of South Down and East Monaghan."

121. The Most Rev. Dr. Conway, Bishop of Killala,* which includes portions of Mayo and Sligo. When parish priest of Killala, he wrote, May 27th, 1870:—"The average height in and around Killala is from 5 feet 7 to 5 feet 8 inches; and that is also the average for Mayo and Sligo. You would not get five men in the two counties such as the French writer describes. I am surprised that a Frenchman should be led into such a blunder. The only Northerners I know came to Mullaghfarry about 150 years ago with the ancestors of the Earl of Arran, they were sixteen families."

* Gerald Barry, in the 12th century says, that on the north coast of Mayo, till then unexplored by the English, two Irishmen rowed to an English vessel in a narrow, oblong curach, made of osiers, and covered with the skins of animals. These men had, in Irish fashion, very long yellow hair (*comas flavas*) falling over their shoulders.—*Topographia Hibernica, Distinctio*, iii., cap. xxvi.

122. Father O'Reilly of Kilmore-Erris, Mayo:—
“My parishioners are well developed, generally stout, able, industrious, about 5 feet 9 inches; have not had the advantage or disadvantage of intermarrying with strangers.”

123. Father Costello of Crossmolina, Mayo:—
“My neighbours are equal in physique to any men I have ever seen anywhere.”

124. Father Henry Hewson of Belmullet:—“I can only speak for North Mayo. Those who live inland show little, if any, difference in appearance from the peasants of the rest of Ireland, but along the coast we have as fine specimens of tall, stalwart men as could be found anywhere.”

125. Canon Bourke of Claremorris:—“The average height of the men of the four maritime counties of Connaught is 5 feet 9 inches; the O'Dowds who dwell in North Mayo, and in the Southern part of Sligo County, the Merricks, and the Joyces, are a singularly tall, strong-bodied race.”

126. Dr. Healy, Bishop of Clonfert:—“July 19, 1886. The best and handsomest race in Connaught are, in my opinion, to be found around Sligo, in the Barony of Carbery; the men average 5 feet 9 inches; the women, especially the girls, before hard

labour and exposure spoil their features, are singularly fair and well-featured."

127. Canon Monahan, D.D., a Leinster man, but a native of the Diocese of Ardagh, which embraces the greater part of Leitrim, says:—"In the parts of Leitrim with which I am best acquainted, the peasants are the most stalwart and handsome I have seen anywhere. Their great physical and intellectual power, and their superiority to the Leinstermen may be attributed to the mountain breezes, their good moral lives, and their early marriages. But I hear from Inspectors of Schools that the Mayo people surpass in intelligence the natives of Leitrim and Roscommon."

128. The Rev. James Grimes:—"Bessbrook, Co. Armagh, 27th August, 1886. Regarding the height and personal appearance of the people of the Fews, I assure you they will compare favourably in both respects with the peasants of any part of France or Spain, as far as I am able to judge, and I have travelled a good deal in both countries. In a word, they are very little, if anything, behind the best specimens of manhood in the Three Kingdoms—and this is the opinion of several gentlemen whom I have consulted."

129. The Rev. Wm. MacDonald, D.D., a native of Leinster. This learned gentleman wrote to me

from the Fews:—"I have asked several persons who, like myself, live in the very district mentioned by the French writer, and we all agree that 5 feet 8 inches would be the average height; there is nothing peculiar about their features, neither high cheek bones, nor projecting teeth, &c. They are shrewd and intelligent. I cannot institute a comparison between them and the men of Meath, for I do not know Meath; but, though I am a Louthman myself, I believe they will compare favourably with the Louthmen, and the men of Kildare and Tyrone. I have shown the Frenchman's description to a good number of priests and laymen, and some were highly amused, while others were dreadfully indignant. I have seen no peasantry anywhere superior to our own of the Fews in bone and sinew and good looks. As I presume he did not mean merely to describe a stray individual, such as may be met anywhere, I must say that his statement is totally untrue. I send you the names, heights, and weights of 51 men taken at random in one part of the Fews, aged from 19 to 50. They were measured in their shoes; also a group of 23 youths aged from 16 to 18 inclusive."

I arrange them according to height, omitting the names and weights supplied by the learned Doctor

and his helpers. Of the 51 men, from 19 to 50:—

1 was 6 ft.	2 in.	3 were 5 ft. 10½ in.	11 were 5 ft. 8 in.
		2 „ 5 ft. 10 in.	
1 „ 6 ft. 1 in.		3 „ 5 ft. 9½ in.	1 was 5 ft. 7½ in.
1 „ 6 ft. 0 in.		6 „ 5 ft. 9 in.	5 were 5 ft. 7 in.
4 were 5 ft. 11½ in.		6 „ 5 ft. 8½ in.	1 was 5 ft. 6 in.
6 „ 5 ft. 11 in.			

Of 23 youths from 16 to 18 inclusive:—

1 was 6 ft.		1 was 5 ft. 8¾ in.	1 was 5 ft. 5¾ in.
1 „ 5 ft. 10½ in.		2 were 5 ft. 8½ in.	1 „ 5 ft. 5½ in.
2 were 5 ft. 10 in.		3 „ 5 ft. 8 in.	2 were 5 ft. 5 in.
3 „ 5 ft. 9 in.		1 was 5 ft. 7¾ in.	1 was 5 ft. 4½ in.
			3 were 5 ft. 4 in.

Mrs. Bigger, of Falmore Hall, Dundalk, kindly sent me a photograph of a group of peasants of the Fews. They are good-looking men. She adds that the people are “of medium height, and fair;” and that is also the opinion of her sons.



CHAPTER V.

TESTIMONIES OF WRITERS AND TOURISTS ON THE
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PEASANTRY OF
MAYO, SLIGO AND-LEITRIM.

130. IN 1797, De Latocnaye, a Frenchman, spent nine months going on foot through Ireland, and published his *Rambles*; at pp. 14, 24, 41, of vol. the 2nd, he writes:—"The nakedness of the poor near Galway is shocking. Their huts do not seem calculated for human beings, yet they are crowded with healthy fresh-looking children; it is easy to perceive this, for they often play before the doors of the cabins without any kind of garment. It is an odd remark, but one I have often made—the uglier the country is, the handsomer are the women; in this barren and rocky place they are charming. It is very easy to call people savages (he speaks of Connemara), but do you know where I have found real savages? It was at Paris, at London, at Dublin, at Edinburgh, in all large cities. . . . My Leitrim guide seemed to be a jovial fellow. As he often reproached me with not

having taken the precaution of bringing something to eat, I said:—‘You speak always of eating, you must be an Englishman.’ ‘Don’t call me names,’ said he. ‘But,’ said I, ‘an Englishman is at least as good as an Irishman.’ The manner in which he shook his head, and the peculiar emphasis with which he pronounced ‘G—d d—n,’ convinced me that he was by no means of that opinion.”

131. Dr. McParlan in the *Statistical Survey of Mayo* of 1801, p. 229, speaks of “the stalwart sons of Mayo;” the *Statistical Survey of Leitrim* in 1802, p. 63, says—“The people’s clothing is remarkably neat and strong; they seldom want provisions; every father in the county sends his children to school.”

132. The Rev. A. Atkinson, a Protestant writer, says in his *Irish Tourist*:—“The Leitrim peasant appears to me to have a certain amiable simplicity of character. Although in religious (! E.H.), commercial, and literary advantages he may not stand upon a footing with his brother, the Irish northern, he has nevertheless, considered merely in a natural point of view, the advantage of him with regard to his country. The northern has not for the most part (if I may judge by the specimens I have seen) his imagination exalted by the same beauty and grandeur of lake and mountain which may have

censpired with other causes, to soften and simplify the character of the Leitrim peasant."

Here we find no trace of degraded dwarfs. I might very easily extend those quotations; and I might even prove the falsehood of Hall's statements from the silence of tourists' books on that matter; and I could easily show how incompatible his assertions are with the whole tone and tenor of books written on the West of Ireland.*

133. 1821. George Petrie, the son of Scotch parents, visited the West of Ireland in 1821. He expresses his amazement at Pinkerton's assertion, that "the wild Irish are the veriest savages on the face of the globe," and says:—"As the result of much enquiry and attentive observation, I am bound to praise their primitive simplicity, ingenuous manners, singular hospitality and honesty. They are brave, hardy, industrious, enterprising, thoughtful, intelligent, innocent. Lying and drinking form no part of their character; they never swear, have a high sense of propriety, honour, and justice. They are healthy, *comely*, and *prepossessing*, of fine intellect and delicate sensibility; still wild Irish perhaps, and *poor* certainly, but well-dressed

* For instance, *The Saxon in Ireland; or, Rambles of an Englishman in Search of a Settlement in the West of Ireland*, London, John Murray, 1851.

savages, *without tails*, I believe." He describes two of these Western wild Irish:—"Mr. O'Flaherty, born in Aran, was never farther from his native rocks than Galway; cannot abide the thought of leaving Aran; a child in innocence and simplicity, in wisdom and understanding most truly a man, in manners and conduct a polished gentleman; of middle stature, blue-eyed, dark-complexioned, dark-haired, face long and oval, his dress that of the islanders. Molly McAuley, 70 years old, of singular mental powers, with a figure which, even in decay, bespoke the most perfect symmetry, and a face beaming with beauty, intelligence, and sensibility. Father O'Flaherty, a native of Aranmore, has been here for forty years. Courage is marked on the lips and brow of his manly, toil-worn, weather-beaten countenance—a face a physiognomist would look at for hours with pleasure, it is so harmonious in all its parts.

"I went to see his people come from Mass. The colours of the dresses were such as the Roman school have always loved—the deep red and blue of the female costumes were relieved by the azure dresses of the men. In one place were men, in youthful prime, drawn together in sober discourse; in another the old people were silent and contemplative. Here, too, were young and unmarried

women, with cloaks carelessly disposed in picturesque draperies, while their attitude bespoke the presence of youthful affection and innocent simplicity."

Dr. W. Stokes, who quotes this in Petrie's Life, adds that for the last ten years in Aran, out of a population of 3,300, with only one magistrate, there was only one per thousand committed annually to prison, and not one sent for trial to assizes in quarter sessions.

134. In 1833, the Rev. William H. Maxwell, in his *Wild Sports of the West*, writes:—"In personal appearance the Western peasantry are very inferior to those of the other divisions of the kingdom generally. They are undersized, and by no means so good-looking as their Southern neighbours; and I would say in other points they are equally deficient. To overcome their early lounging gait and slovenly habits is found by military men a troublesome task; and while the Tipperary man speedily passes through the hands of the drill-sergeant, the Mayo peasant requires a long and patient ordeal before a martial carriage can be acquired, and he be perfectly *set up* as a soldier. These defects once conquered, none are better for the profession. Hardy, active, patient in wet and cold, and accustomed to indifferent and irregular food, he is admirably adapted to endure the priva-

tions and fatigue incident to a soldier's life on active service ; and in dash and daring *no regiments in the service hold a prouder place* than those which appertain to the kingdom of Connaught." (Dr. Browne and I deny the first two statements.) *Cf.* pp. 138, 144.

"It is said that the physical appearance of the Irish peasantry deteriorates as the Northern and Western sea-coasts are approached ; and certainly on the latter the population are very inferior to that of the adjacent counties. Even the inhabitants of different baronies in the same county, as their locality advances inland, will be found to differ materially ; and in an extensive cattle fair the islander will be as easily distinguished from the borderer, whether he be on the Galway or Roscommon frontier, as from the stock-master of Leinster or the jobber from the North. On the score of propriety of conduct, I would assign the female peasantry of this district a high place. When the habits of the country are considered, one would be inclined to suspect that excessive drinking and the frequent scenes of nocturnal festivities, which wakes and dances present, would naturally lead to much immorality. This, however, is not the case. Broken vows will, no doubt, occasionally require the interference of the magistrate or the priest ;

but generally the lover makes the only reparation in his power, and the deceived females and deserted children are seldom seen in Erris."

135. In 1836 (the very year the *Dublin University Magazine* man penned his fascinating falsehoods), P. Knight, Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers, London, who had known the Mayo and Sligo labourers for twenty years, writes*:—"The men of Sligo are good-humoured, good-natured, hospitable, generous, of middle size, active, intelligent, and, when an opportunity offers, industrious. I have found them on the public works as hard-working and attentive as any people I have met with. The mountaineers are *remarkably stout* and healthy, though seldom wearing shoes. Their journeys are extraordinary. A fellow in Ballycroy (Mayo) thinks nothing of taking a ten-gallon keg of whiskey, weighing 150 lbs. at least, and crossing the mountains to Newport, twenty miles away, and returning home in the evening, without the slightest appearance of fatigue, and carelessly resuming his usual occupation. The people of Ballycroy (in Mayo) are an active, hardy, intelligent race of men, hospitable to an extreme, satisfied with little, not seeking what others call comforts. Ballycroy and Achill are inhabited by people called Ulaigh

* In *Erris and the Western Highlands*, pp. 105, 112, 120, 123.

or Ulster men, who went there with O'Donnell in the time of James the First. They retain the Ulster dialect, intermarry almost exclusively with one another, are hardy, low-sized, dark-featured, bold, daring, intrepid, not good-tempered, but hospitable to an extreme. A stranger is seldom seen without being saluted: 'You are welcome to this country, stranger.' They are very intelligent, and of Northern cunning, and are the material of a fine people."

136. Petrie, mentioned at p. 61, wrote to Captain Larcom, 1837:—"The Sligo people about Lough Gill are a peculiar race, quite Gothic in appearance, fair complexioned, with light hair, blue eyes, and not handsome. The women are remarkable for the strength and thickness of their limbs. Sometimes you meet with handsome, dark-haired, oval-faced, gracefully-formed females; on inquiry you will generally find that they are foreign to the district; that they are MacLoughlins from the North, for instance, or some such, who came into the country 'after the wars!'"

137. In 1839, in *Sketches in Erris and Tyrawley*, and in 1841, in his *Tour in Connaught*, the Rev. Cæsar Otway, an Anglican clergyman, speaking of the fair of Killala, Mayo, says:—"I love to look at a fair, to witness the cordial meetings and greetings

of the kind-hearted people. I wish I had the art of affixing on canvas this or that most picturesque group, when I could pourtray not only the round and jocund faces (blessings on them!) of my countrywomen, but also the rich contrasts of colour in the costumes. Talk not to me of Swiss or German costumes; rather give me a Connaught lass, attired as I have just said, with her fair skin and ruddy cheek, her mirthful black eye, and her white teeth almost sparkling from her half-opened, good-natured, and large mouth. She is no beauty, to be sure—her head and form are Celtic, not Grecian; but there she stands before a tent—a kind, laughter-loving, amiable *crathur*. I see her coquetting most intensely with Pat, and he is a *clean, comely, broad-shouldered, light-limbed, springy fellow*. He could run to Sligo and never draw breath; he could hurl and fight till the cows come home. An old, wrinkled body, Sally's aunt, no doubt, is standing watching the colleen. Such groups you may jot down in your sketch-book at Killala. . . .

“ Binghamstown (in North-west Mayo) was full of people: Mass was over, yet hundreds were crowding round the chapel, for public baptism was going on, and all the parents and gossips in their best attire were awaiting the ceremony. Were I to judge from the appearance of the crowds I should suppose that

the people of the Mullet were by no means in great or squalid poverty, and I was surprised that the miserable hovels, that on every side presented themselves, could turn out so many well-dressed people.

“The people of Erris are pleasant, good-humoured, and good-natured, of great simplicity of character connected with shrewdness. . . . Very few men in Achill island wore hats; their long glibs were their protection; the women were in russet-brown wolsey gown, and madder-red short petticoat with yellow kerchief tied close to their heads. They are in the same state as they were a thousand years ago. They are as healthy and long-lived as any other people perhaps; they must sometimes want medical aid, and yet there is not a doctor within thirty miles of them.

“No race of men was ever known to have changed characters so rapidly as the Cromwellian settlers. The English always became more Irish than the Irish themselves; but no race adopted the wild extravagant character of the Irish as the Cromwellians did. All the Erris families of settlers, twelve of whose names have come down to us, became Papists, except three out of the twelve families. The people of Erris are an amiable, confiding race, with the manners and habits of a thousand years ago.”

138. In 1840? Dr. Arnold, in his *History of Rome*, says of the (Mayo, Sligo, and Leitrim) labourers:—“This statement was sent to Niebuhr by some Englishman, and Niebuhr, taking the fact for granted on his correspondent’s authority, was naturally much perplexed by it. But had he travelled ever so rapidly through Wales or Ireland, or had he cast a glance on any of those groups of Irish labourers (from Connacht), who are constantly to be met with in the summer on all the roads in England, he would have at once perceived that his perplexity had been needless. Compared with the Italians, it would be certainly true, that the Celtic nations were generally both *light-haired and tall*. I should not have ventured to speak so confidently, merely from my own observation; but Dr. Pritchard, who has for many years turned his attention to this question, assures me, *that he is perfectly satisfied as to the truth of the fact here stated; to me it is only surprising that any one should have thought of disputing it.*”

139. In 1843, Count d’Avèze, a Frenchman, published *Un Tour en Irlande*. He says:—“The women of Galway have oval faces, slightly hooked noses (*le nez arqué*), blue eyes and brown hair; their skin is of wonderful whiteness; their hands

and feet are so small that they would excite the envy of Andalusian women. The men are also very remarkable; they have handsome and strongly-marked features, eyes from which dart passionate and intelligent glances; they are for the most part athletic and slender in build, and of noble bearing (*cavalièrement tournés*). They dress in quite Castilian fashion in their long patched carricks, and wear their hats over one ear. The peasants of the County of Mayo, and of Connacht generally, are handsome and strong, their features are well-defined (*accentués*), their looks proud and piercing, their whole bearing indicates vivacity and energy. It is in this out-of-the-way region that the artist will discover the purest types of the native race. The women have large almond-shaped eyes, aquiline noses, brown hair, which falls in waves over their strong shoulders. Those Irish women of the West have quite the Spanish cut of features, and, at the same time, the colour of a whiteness and transparency as delicate as that of English women, or of the other daughters of the North. In spite of their misery, which is only too evident, these women have in their attitude, in their gestures, in their gait, something noble and striking; all their movements are stamped with a graceful distinction which seems inborn. More than once I have been struck

with astonishment in meeting, at a corner of a road, a poor girl moving on in quite a majestic manner, arrayed theatrically in her tattered clothes, carrying on her head an earthen jug, having for cortége a goat or a lamb, and walking bare-footed on stones with as much ease and dignity as a princess passing in a salon before her courtiers. While contemplating those poor women, for the moment, I confess that their titles of nobility seemed to radiate from their brows, and I gave way to the idea that they were really descended from the blood of kings."

140. In 1844, Mr. Grant, an Englishman, in his *Impressions of Ireland*, says:—"Nothing can be more extreme than the poverty of the peasants. Yet I never saw a set of finer looking children than those you meet with in the poorer districts. They far surpass in the comeliness of their little countenances the children of this country (England). I saw hundreds of them whom I thought perfect pictures from the regularity of their features and the symmetry of their forms. It is true, as they advance in years, they lose the singular beauty which characterises them in early life. This is to be attributed to the hard destiny of their lives. Englishmen would perish in masses were they compelled to work as hard on such scanty food."

141. In 1853, Sir Samuel Ferguson, in his sketch

of the South Island of Aran, writes :—" The islanders are a handsome, courteous, and amiable people. Whatever may be said of the advantages of a mixture of races, I cannot discern anything save what makes in favour of these people of the pure ancient stock, when I compare them with the mixed populations of districts on the mainland. The most refined gentleman might live among them in familiar intercourse, and never be offended by a gross or sordid sentiment. This delicacy of feeling is reflected in their figures, the hands and feet being small in proportion to the stature, and the gesture erect and graceful. The population consists principally of the three families or tribes of O'Flaherty, Joyce, and Conneely. . . . To see the careful way in which the most has been made of every spot available for the growth of produce, might correct the impression so generally entertained and so studiously encouraged, that the native Irish are a thriftless people. Here, where they have been left to themselves, notwithstanding the natural sterility of their islands they are certainly a very superior population—physically, morally, and even economically—to those of many of the mixed and planted districts."

142. In 1861, Dr. Beddoe, visited the Aran Islands of which, in his *Races of Britain*, he says :—" The

people of the Aran Isles, in Galway Bay, have their own very strongly-marked type, in some respects an exaggeration of the ordinary Gaelic one: the face being remarkably long, the chin very long and narrow, but not angular; the nose long, straight, and pointed; the brows straight, or rising obliquely outwards; the eyes light, with very few exceptions; the hair of various colours, but usually dark brown. They have nearly the same long-featured, long-headed type already spoken of as common in the Belgic region of Northern France. The inhabitants of Aranmore very much resemble each other. They are generally of good stature, with square shoulders, not very broad. Head inclining to be long and narrow; convexity above not great. Forehead rather narrow, looks square from the front, but is gently rounded from other points of view; brows straight or rising obliquely outwards, rather low. Eyes rather narrow, blue-grey, greyish blue, or dark grey. Hair in women abundant, in men not notably so; of various colours, generally dark brown. Nose of good length, straight, pointed. Mouth of good size; often open, as in Irish generally. Chin very long, narrow, but not angular at extremity; great length of jaw, with remarkably little curve. Cheek-bones somewhat prominent in front."

143. In 1862, Coulter in his *West of Ireland*, wrote:—"A writer lately tells of three emaciated creatures who ran after his car on the road from Oughterard to Clifden. The people seem steeped to the lips in poverty, but the children who ran barefooted, and not warmly clad, after Bianconi's car, were plump, rosy-cheeked, bright-eyed, and in perfect health. And this is the case with the inhabitants of all Connemara. I have seen them in their houses, in their fields, on the roads; and, with the exception of their dress, I believe they may challenge comparison with the peasantry of any other county in Ireland as regards personal comeliness.

"The men are, for the most part, tall, broad-shouldered, well-made fellows; the young women good-looking, and often very handsome; the children merry, active, intelligent little creatures. The middle-aged women do not retain their good-looks as long as in other parts of the country, probably from severe hard work and constant exposure to weather. The people are uncivilised, yet exceedingly quick, acute and penetrating, more so perhaps than other Irishmen."

144. In 1872, Sir William Wilde, in his account of "Lough Corrib," wrote:—"When we see the miserable sheep and cows, that eke out an existence

among the rocks near Lough Corrib, we cannot help asking ourselves, how the light-haired, blue-eyed inhabitants, especially on Sunday and holiday, when cleaned for Mass, present such an amount of health and happiness, or why they remain in that region."

145. M. Henri Martin, a Frenchman, said before the British Association in 1878:—"I have visited a part of the Counties of Galway and Mayo. I fancied I should find the majority of the people to be descendants of the Firbolgs; I have seen on the contrary that the fair-haired, blue-eyed race predominates, and is much the more numerous."

146. In 1882, Dr. Beddoe, of the London Anthropometric Committee, wrote:—"Let us see what can be made of the popular solution of the matter—the theory that the Connaughters had degenerated under the influence of semi-starvation, until their kinsmen across the Shannon would no longer acknowledge the connection. This view was brought forward years ago by a writer in the *Dublin University Magazine*, and so forcible and graphic was the picture he drew of the dwarfish, pot-bellied, abortively-featured, prognathous 'spectres of a people, once able-bodied and comely, that haunted Sligo and Mayo,' that it has been quoted by every monogenist writer at home and abroad ever since.

The passage is *entirely a libel* on the natives of Eastern Sligo; but as I never visited Mayo, I am not prepared to deny that it may be more applicable there. It does not apply to Connemara, where the people, though small, are well-built and well-favoured; nor to Joyce's and O'Flaherty's country, near Galway, where they are notoriously tall. The military returns show that the Mayo people have the Irish colour-type in a high degree; the people of Inishmurray (Sligo) are a decidedly fair race, and not uncomely." According to Dr. Beddoe, out of 1,500 measured adult Irish recruits the naked mean height of 31 from Sligo was 67·26 inches, of 20 from Leitrim 66·99 inches, of 62 from Mayo 66·64 inches; giving the average height of those 113 men = 66·96 inches.

147. In 1895, Dr. Browne, in his *Ethnography of the Mullet, Inishkea, and Portacloy*, in North Mayo, says:—"In no part of these districts are the people of small stature, though a large number of them are descendants of dispossessed Ulster people. On the contrary, they appear to be taller and stouter than the inhabitants of the southern part of the country. A statement,* originally made by an anonymous writer, has somehow gained currency,

* *Dublin University Magazine*, No. 48, p. 658.

and has been repeatedly quoted abroad, noticeably by M. de Quatrefages* and by M. Devay,† that the descendants of the Ulster people, driven two centuries ago into Sligo and Mayo, had dwindled into dwarfs of five feet two inches high, prognathous and pot-bellied. This most certainly does not apply to any section of the inhabitants of this part of Mayo, if, indeed, it were ever true of any part of the counties named, which repeated inquiries and personal observation agree in denying most positively. The statement is quite unsupported by other writers dealing with this region at the same time.

“The people, on the whole, are good-looking, especially when young; many of the girls and young women are very handsome, but they appear to age rapidly and early become wrinkled.

“The men of this district are as a rule of fair average stature, very stoutly built, and broad-shouldered; while there are few who can fairly be termed very tall, yet many reach a good height, and the proportion of small men is by no means large. The average stature of the 62 adult males measured was 1,725 mm., or about 5 feet 8 inches. The extremes were 1,628 mm. (5 feet 4 inches), and 1,820 mm., or about 5 feet 11½ inches.

* *L'Unité de l'Espèce Humain*, ii., 316.

† Devay, Fr., *Du Danger des Mariages consanguins sous le Rapport Sanitaire*.

"The women seem to be more even in height than the men.

"The head is generally well-shaped and is often of large size. The forehead is broad and upright (rarely receding), rounded away at the sides, and of fair height; eye-brows thick and level.

"The nose is short and has nearly always a cheek-bones, and is rather broader in the bigonial region than observed in either Aran or Inishbofin.

"The nose is short and has nearly always a straight profile; of the 62 men measured, 50 had straight, 8 sinuous, 2 aquiline, and 2 retroussé noses.

"The wrinkles on the face are very deep, most so about the eyes and at the 'root' of the nose, where there is often a raised fold of skin between two deep furrows. The mouth is large, with lips of medium thickness, often kept habitually apart when the face is at rest, but the large hanging lower lip is not so noticeable a character here as in other localities of the west coast.

"The teeth are usually very short and even.

"The chin is prominent, but not long, and the angles of the jaw are rather oblique.

"The eyes, which are placed moderately wide apart, have irides of a light blue or bluish-grey, and being deep set and (in the fishermen) habitually

half closed, they present to a casual observer the appearance of being small in size.

“The complexion is either ruddy or pale, rarely sallow; on exposure to the sun and wind it becomes a clear red, seldom freckling or turning brown.

“The prevailing colour for the hair is dark brown, next in order of frequency is brown or chestnut, next black; fair and red hair are comparatively scarce.

“In the case of the Inishkea people, the most usual hair colour seems to be a clear brown, accompanied by reddish-brown beard and blue-grey eyes; in these islands, also, there is a larger proportion of fair hair than on the mainland. The hair, and beard (when worn), are fairly abundant. Greyiness does not appear to set in early.”

In his *Ethnography of Ballycroy*, North Mayo, Dr. Browne writes:—“The general appearance of the people is rather pleasing, many of the men are handsome, and the women, too, are often good-looking, but, as observed in the reports on the other districts surveyed, both sexes seem to age rather rapidly, and some of the men become wrinkled very early.

“The men are usually stoutly built, and of about the middle stature, though extremes, in this respect, are more common than observed in the Mullet or the Inishkea islands.

"A few men of small stature were met with, and about an equal number of tall men.

"The average height of the fifty men measured was 1,721 mm., or a little under 5 ft. 8 in., the extremes were 1,576 mm. (5 ft. 2 in.) and 1,838 mm. (6 feet.)

"The shoulders are broad and square, and the upright carriage of many of the men is very noticeable.

"The head is massive and well-shaped, usually broad just above the ears.

"The forehead is broad, seldom receding, and not very high; the skin is often a good deal wrinkled, even in comparatively young men, but not so much so as in the case of the fishing populations. The eye-brows overhang the eyes considerably, and are thick and rather level.

"The face, though often long, is rather oblong in outline, owing to the breadth of the jaws in the bigonial region. The cheek-bones are, as a rule, prominent. The ridge or fold of skin at the root of the nose is not as common, nor when seen, of as large size as in the men of the fishing populations. The eyes have usually blue or light grey irides, seldom hazel or brown; but it should be noted that the percentage of 'light' eyes in adults, 78.7 (a much lower figure than observed in any of the

'districts yet reported on) shows a larger proportion of dark-eyed people in the population of Ballycroy.

"The eyes are deeply set, and are placed rather wide apart; there are often wrinkles around them, as is generally observable in the west. The eye-lashes are dark and long.

"The nose is straight usually, sometimes sinuous, seldom aquiline, or *retroussé*. The mean nasal-index is 63.9.

"The mouth is large, and the lips of medium thickness. The teeth are, when not spoiled by excessive smoking, small, white, and very even. The angles of the jaw are rather pronounced and square, which gives an oblong outline to the face when viewed from the front.

"The complexion is fair or ruddy, seldom freckling; sallowness is not common, even in those with dark eyes. As noted in other sections, wrinkles seem to come rather early.

"The hair is usually a dark brown; next, in order of frequency, come the lighter shades of brown; then black, which is commoner here than in the Mullet; then fair, and lastly red. The growth of the hair is fairly abundant, it is often wavy or curly. The beard is usually somewhat lighter in colour than the hair of the scalp, and, if allowed to

grow naturally, seems to have, in many cases, a tendency to fork at the end.

“The foregoing description is, of course, a general one, applying only to the prevailing type; there is, however, a second type not infrequently met with, the chief characters of which are, long oval face, with but slightly marked angles to the jaws, less prominent cheek bones and sharper features.

“The figure seems to be slighter in youth, but to exhibit a tendency to put on flesh with advancing years. The hair, in this type, is usually lighter owing to admixture.

“Though there are some men of small stature in the community, there are also some above the middle height, and the majority are of about the middle stature.

“As this is *the* district of County Mayo, inhabited by a colony of Ulster origin, it may not be out of place to repeat here what was written about people of similar origin in the Mullet, that there appears to be no foundation whatever for the statement made originally by an anonymous writer, and quoted repeatedly since by several writers both in this country and abroad, to the effect that the descendants of the dispossessed Ulster tribes, who settled in the counties of Sligo and Mayo, have through intermarriage and deficient food dwindled

to an average height of five feet two inches, and become prognathous, pot-bellied, and utterly degenerate. As before stated, the average stature of the fifty men whom I had measured was 1,721 mm., or barely under 5 ft. 8 in.; no selection whatever was practised beyond excluding some ungrown young lads; and this average is perhaps a little below the true figure, as it was said by several of the people that most of the best grown men were away working as migratory labourers in England. Only three men whose height was less than five feet three and a half inches were met with, and they seemed to be exceptional cases. Only one dwarf is known in the district."

"Inisturk and Clare Island, Co. Mayo. 56 men were on an average 5 feet $7\frac{1}{8}$ inches; of head large and well formed, long face, nose straight or sinuous, sometimes *retroussé*, chin square and prominent, not prognathous; complexion fair and ruddy; eyes blue and light grey. In 112 men and women there was no red hair, 12.50 per cent. fair hair, 40.84 brown, 34.76 dark hair, 9.46 per cent. black."

In his *Ethnography of* (the islands of) *Garumna and Leitirmullen*, in the County Galway, but opposite Mayo, Dr. Browne says they contain "probably the poorest and the most primitive population in Ireland." The people are well

developed and good-looking. The mean height of the sixty-five adult men measured was 1,739 metres, or 5 feet 8½ inches; the extremes were 5 feet 5 inches and 6 feet 1 inch; eight of them were 5 feet 11 inches and upwards; the build is stout and square, with great depth of chest and muscular strength, far above the average. Their lifting power is especially great; they are very hardy, and capable of bearing a great deal of hunger, fatigue and wet. The women seem to be above the average height, and are very stout and strong, one young maiden of 18 was 5 feet 10 inches.

The head is well-shaped, the forehead upright; the face of medium length, with prominent cheek-bones; the nose is straight, generally long and sharply pointed, often aquiline. The mouth is not large, the lips are of medium thickness; the teeth are good, sound and even; the eyes light-blue or blue-grey, seldom green or brown; the ears small and well-shaped, and very few abnormalities were observed. The skin rather fair, sometimes ruddy, and turns to clear red. The hair is usually a light brown, next in order of occurrence dark brown, then fair; black and red hair infrequently met with, genuinely black hair is very rare. The hair is usually wavy, very often curly. The people are, as a rule, robust, stout, hardy, wonderfully

healthy. "Certain diseases (which I do not care to mention, E. H.), such as (X and Y) are unknown. The people are sober, the women seldom or never take liquor. Only two cases of illegitimacy have occurred in the last twenty years. They are very devout in the practices of their religion, and family affection is a marked trait in their character."*

148. In 1891 Marie-Anne de Bovet, a French lady in her *Trois Mois en Irlande*, p. 340, says of the people of Achill, Co. Mayo:—"The men and women are generally handsome and well built, with that fineness of type (*finesse de type*), ease of manners, carelessness of attitudes, of gestures, and gait, to which the Irish peasant is indebted for the fact, that he is never vulgar. Do we not see here a mark of their southern origin?"

149. Oral evidence collected by me in Dublin and elsewhere. As far as it is anonymous, or that of persons since dead, its value depends on the accuracy of my reports of the statements made to me. Yet I have a voucher, to some extent, for that accuracy in Mr. Frederick Ryding, of 95 Merrion Square, West. This gentleman has sharp sight, is a keen observer, takes an intense interest in ethnography, has been, like myself, in various parts of Europe;

* *Proceedings of the R.I. Academy*, May, 1899, pp. 223-245.

by the long practice of his profession he ought to know more about jaws, noses, and faces than Beddoe, Topinard, or Virchow; besides he is an accurate amateur portrait painter. He came with me on one or more of my rounds of inspection. We visited a steamer which conveys the harvestmen to and from England, and were informed by the captain that they were "about 67 inches in height, of fair or sandy hair, a few red, and a few black;" and by the mate, who said they carried thousands of them, that they were "like other people in England and Ireland, but not so well dressed, and of fairer hair and complexion." The Captain of another vessel told us that they were 68 or 67 inches high; and two of his crew, who had been going with harvestmen for twenty years, said they "were 67 or 68 inches high, of fair, or auburn, or dusty-coloured hair, and no red."

150. According to the anonymous writer in the *Dublin University Magazine*, of December, 1836:—"It is not necessary to travel out of Dublin to study in this school. From June till August our quays are a commodious class-room. A hundred professors of spare diet may here be found any day in the week . . . five feet two upon an average," etc. Well, I have made it my business for some years to look at thousands of those 'professors of

spare diet,' as he calls the Connacht harvesters. I have looked at them in their native places, at the Broadstone Station, along the streets and quays, and in the ships which take them over to England. From my careful observation, I judged that the mean height of the full-grown labourers of Mayo, Sligo, and Leitrim is over 67 inches."

As soon as I saw the statement of the *Dublin University Magazine* I went to the late Sir John Lentaigne, Inspector of Prisons, who knew Ireland well. He said it was a gross misrepresentation, and asked me to go with him to Mr. Burke, Under Secretary for Ireland, a Connacht man, with whom he had an appointment. Mr. Burke, whom we met at his house in Westland Row, said the whole thing was absurd; he laughed at the words which I read to him, or at me, I did not know which.* Then I went to Sir William Wilde, who lived close by in Merrion Square, and who had written much on Irish ethnography. He said: "Johnny Gray (Sir J. Gray) and I are from that part of the world; he is from Claremorris (Mayo), and I am from Castlereagh. Ask Gray, and ask the *Eagle* of the *Fág an bealachs*; I tell you what, the Mayo men are so far from being a degraded race, that you

* This Mr. Burke and Lord Frederick Cavendish were murdered in the Phoenix Park.

could find in that one county more men fit to be Lord Chancellors than in all the other counties of Ireland put together. Come and dine with me to-day and we'll talk the matter over with some friends." I could not accept the invitation. I did not ask Sir J. Gray; but I asked the *Eagle* of the *Fág an bealachs*, a famous Mayo regiment, and I give its evidence on pages 153-158.

A group of six Dublin carmen, who for years saw thousands of the reapers pass through the streets in numerous bodies, "agreed among themselves that some are small, some six feet high, but the *run* of them is between 5 feet 7 and 5 feet 8, and fine, hardy men, better than ourselves." Several railway porters at Broadstone Station, who had seen thousands upon thousands of them, being asked separately, gave the heights 5f. 8, 5f. 7½, 5f. 7, 5f. 6¾, 5f. 6, 5f. 8½, 5f. 9 inches. Several loungers (some of whom were ex-soldiers) and coal-porters on the quays, gave the heights as from 5f. 5 to 5f. 10. A policeman, who had been stationed on or near the North Wall for fourteen years, said:—"They are smaller than the County Dublin men, but I would not admit that they are not as good as the City of Dublin people; they look queer on account of their dress, but are fine, hardy men; of fair hair, a few of red, and a few of dark hair." One

of the harvesters, who was a well-built man, about 5 f. 10 high, told me that "about 5 f. 8 was the height of the *weight** of them."

Mr. Ward, Instructor of Drill to the Dublin Metropolitan Police, said: "The Mayo men could not possibly be under 5 feet 5 inches;" Serjeant-Major Robert Jackson of the N. Mayo Militia, said the average was 5 feet 7 inches. The Rev. Maxwell Close, M.R.I.A., who, during a residence of fifteen years in England had seen Connacht men there every year, said they were about 5 feet 7 inches; Mr. Larmenie, who was intimately acquainted with Mayo, says the labourers are 5 feet 7 or 8 inches.

Mr. James Bermingham, Surveyor of Buildings:—"The men of Erris and Tyrawly are about 5 feet 7 inches, the women 5 feet 4 inches. Intelligent and careful observers inform Fr. Kelly, P.P., Tulsk, that the height of the peasants in North Mayo and Sligo is about 5 feet 9 inches. The Messrs. Morris, of 68 Harcourt Street, Building Surveyors, have had opportunities of knowing the physical characteristics of the peasants of all parts of Ireland, and they affirmed that the Mayo and Sligo people are about 5 feet 7 or 8 inches, well-built, and fair-

* This seems a bull, but it stands for the Irish similar word *an mhéid*, which means bulk, quantity, number; *ca mhéid* means how many, how much?

featured. While they were telling me this, at the Rosses near Sligo, they pointed out to me a young fisherman casually passing by, who was one of the handsomest and finest men I ever beheld. Mr. Lamb, an English gentleman, who knows Sligo well, says the people are about 5 feet 8 inches, and "decidedly handsome." Mr. Delany, who has charge of the tramcars at Nelson's Pillar, and was formerly in the Metropolitan Police, says: "I am looking at those labourers for thirty-seven years as they pass through Dublin, and I think they are from 5 feet 6 inches to 6 feet, and about 5 feet 8 inches on an average." But to be brief, I have at various times during many years asked the opinion of about forty of the Metropolitan Police of the C and D divisions, of fifteen serjeants of constabulary in Dublin and Kildare, at Cliffony, Grange, Breagh, and Mullaghmore in Sligo; of Bunduff, Tullaghan, and Kinloch in Leitrim. I have consulted 16 carmen, 16 railway officials and guards, 10 loungers or corner boys, some of whom had been soldiers, 20 civilians, etc., and these persons, in number about 140, gave the heights as about 5 feet $6\frac{3}{4}$, 5 feet 7 inches, 5 feet $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches, 5 feet 8 inches, 5 feet $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and 5 feet 9 inches. I asked each of them my own height (which I knew) to ascertain if he was competent to judge, and finding him fairly so I entered down his

estimate. The average, as to the Mayo men, was about 5 feet $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Very few said 5 feet 9 inches, and one said 5 feet 6 inches.

151. I now proceed to give some *striking* proofs that the labourers, "harvesters," "reapers," and "spailpíns" of Mayo, Leitrim, and Sligo are well over five feet two inches high. These men and their brother Connachtmien of Galway and Roscommon formed the 87th Royal Irish Fusiliers and the 88th Connaught Rangers. Wherever the 87th or the 88th charged one or more of Napoleon's "invincible" regiments, it made "smithereens" of them, "twice saved the allied armies," and thus proved itself to be at least equal in "form" and physique to any regiment of any country whatever.

The 87th, which got 571 Mayo recruits in 1805, is nicknamed "The Fogs," from the Irish battle-cry, *Fág an bealach* (Leave the way!) with which it charged the French at Barrosa, and is named "The Eagles," from its having been the first (and the last?) to capture one of Napoleon's Eagles:—"At Barrosa, says Sir William Napier in his *History of the Peninsular War*, the 87th Royal Irish Fusiliers closed eagerly with the French, and by a rapid, animated, fierce, and prolonged charge overthrew the first line, dashed it violently against the

second, and broke both by the shock, making them suffer immensely, taking a howitzer, killing the colonel, and capturing the Eagle of Napoleon's favourite 8th regiment. At Tarifa the 87th were fiercely assailed by a French column; but, says Wellington, 'though comparatively a small number, they made the enemy retire with disgrace infinitely to the honour of our brave troops.'"

With these deeds before him, the poet, Charles Philips, having praised in verse the Irish generals, Wellington, Hutchinson, Spencer, Cole, Beresford, and Pack, addresses the colonel of the 87th:—

"And thou, brave, laughter-loving Doyle,
Pure symbol of thy native soil,
Long may'st thou lead thy hero band,
Guards of their Prince, and glories of their land."

General Graham, who commanded at Barrosa, wrote to Wellington:—"A most determined charge by three companies of Guards, and the 87th Regiment, supported by the remainder of the left wing, decided the fate of General Laval's Division. The Eagle of the 8th Regiment of Infantry, *which suffered immensely*,* and a howitzer rewarded this charge, and remained in possession of Major Gough (who commanded the 87th), *the animated charges of the 87th were most conspicuous.*" Wellington

* The context shows who inflicted the suffering.

replied* : “ I beg to congratulate you, and the brave troops under your command, on the signal victory. If your attack had not been a most *vigorous* one, the *whole allied army would have been lost*; but you may console yourself with the reflection that you did your utmost, and at all events saved the allied army. I most sincerely congratulate you, and the brave troops under your command, on your success.”

General Graham wrote to Doyle, the colonel of the 87th:—“ March 5th, 1811. Dear Doyle, your regiment has covered itself with glory (at Barrosa); recommend it, and its commander to the Prince Regent; too much cannot be done for it.” Its Irish commander, Gough, led the 87th to victory at Talavera, Barrosa, Vittoria (where they captured the baton of Marshal Jourdan), Tarifa, Nivelles; he was the first officer that ever received brevet rank for services performed in the field in command of a regiment. As Commander-in-Chief in India, he won the battles of Maharajpore, Moodkee, Ferozeshah, Sabraon, and Guzerat. But because his victory of Chillianwallah was doubtful, or cost 2,357 fighting men and 89 officers, he was railed at in England for his “ Tipperary tactics.” His motto, and that

* Wellington's *Despatches*.

of his family, is *Fág an bealach!* the charging shout of the 87th.

Of this celebrated regiment Lieutenant John Skipp, an Englishman, who rose from the ranks, thus speaks in his Memoirs:—"I must confess I do love to be on duty of any kind of service with the Irish. There is a promptness to obey, an hilarity, a cheerful obedience and willingness, which I have rarely met with in any other body of men. But, whether in this particular case, these qualifications were instilled into them by the rigid discipline of their corps, I know not, or whether these are the characteristics of the Irish nation. But I have also observed in that corps' (I mean the 87th or Prince's Own Irish) a degree of liberality amongst the men, I have never seen in any other corps, a willingness *to share their crust and drop* on service with their comrades, an *indescribable cheerfulness in obliging and accommodating each other*, and an anxiety to serve each other, and to hide each others faults. In that corps there was a unity I have never seen in any other, *and as for fighting they were very devils*. During the Peninsular War some General observed to Wellington how unsteadily that corps marched. The noble Duke replied 'Yes, General, they do indeed, but they fight like devils.' So they always will, while they are

Irish. In some situations they are, perhaps, too impetuous; but if I know anything of the service, this is a fault on the right side; and what at the moment was thought rashness and *madness* has gained old England many a glorious victory."

152. At the battle of Busaco, the 45th regiment was on the very brink of being annihilated. The Connacht Rangers rushed to their assistance, and both precipitated themselves into the midst of a French column composed of the 2nd, 4th, 36th, regiments, and they completely overthrew them. Wellington was looking on, he galloped up to the 88th, shook hands with its colonel, and said: "Wallace, I never saw a more gallant charge than that of your regiment."

153. At Fuentes d'Onor the 24th, 71st, and 79th regiments were pierced and overpowered by Drouet's division, the 9th regiment of which had penetrated even to a short distance of the British line, and were about to debouch on its centre. The British were worn out, their ammunition was gone, and they were about to retire. Wellington came in that dreadful hour, the most perilous of the whole war, and the Connacht Rangers were let loose at the French. They went in double quick time, were cheered by the British troops, but they gave no cheer in return; and they were saluted by a heavy

fire from a French battery of eightpounders, and from the French infantry. But at a sign from Grattan they gave a cheer, and made so overwhelming a charge on the 9th regiment, and some hundreds of the Imperial Guards, that they lifted some of them from the ground in the shock, and bore them back some paces in the air, and drove them all from the village with universal loss."

These Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim, Galway, and Roscommon men were not picked men, for E. Bulwer-Lytton says that at that period "two-thirds of the British army were Irish, and the lowest of them, the dregs of the Irish populace. What a reflection!"* Well, the reflection that a person must make is that the dregs of Irishmen who twice, at least, saved "the allied armies," and drove the French out of Spain, must not have been "five feet two high, pot-bellied, and bow-legged." I am sure the French heroes of a hundred fights must have had a different opinion driven in on them, and the countrymen of de Quatrefages would not admit that the men who were opposed to the 87th and 88th, that is, their 8th, 9th, 2nd, 4th, and 36th regiments and their Guards, would "leave the way" for men of inferior form and strength. I have not given these two illustrations of "the form" of Connacht-

* *England and the English.* Vol. I., p. 87.

men by way of boasting, or in disparagement of the French. I have lived in France for seven years, and I had close relations, for at least one year, with their foot and horse soldiers, and I could not but admire them. I chiefly, or merely, brought these facts forward to show the utter absurdity of the statements made by the anonymous writer in the *Dublin University Magazine*.

154. Summary of evidence:—

Agility: 34, 35, 36, 38, 38, 41, 43, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53, 55, 73, 74, 85, 168, 170; [110, 127, 129.]

Bulk: 33, 35, 38, 43, 48, 50, 55, 78.

Complexion: 33, 39, 46, 46, 47, 49, 50, 50, 51, 55, 55, 56, 81, 90, 92, 93, 170; [110, 129, 131, 132, 135, 136, 137, 137, 138, 141, 143, 145, 146.]

Courage: 33, 35, 37, 38, 43, 47, 47, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 56, 57 to 70, 72, 72, 72, 74, 74, 74, 77, 79, 85 to 89, 96; [105, 126, 128, 153 to 159.]

Endurance and "hardiness": 37, 43, 46, 47, 50, 52, 53, 55, 55, 66, 78, 85, 87, 87, 88, 170; [125.]

Features: 33, 43, 44, 47, 55, 57, 57, 62, 63, 64, 76, 77, 78, 83, 90, 92, 166, 170; [83, 98, 105, 107,

* The numbers refer to the pages; the pages in brackets refer particularly to the Irish people of Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim, and the Fews Baronies of Armagh.

108, 110, 112, 119, 121, 123, 128, 132, 133, 134, 135, 141, 146, 147, 164, 165.]

Form: 33, 35, 35, 36, 46, 49, 50, 50, 51, 51, 54, 55, 55, 56, 56, 60, 64, 78, 83, 86, 88, 92, 160 to 164, 165, 166, 169; [104, 106, 109, 121, 123, 128, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 138, 139, 147, 153 to 159.]

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Strength: 33, 35, 38, 46, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 50, 51, 55, 55, 55, 63, 64, 73, 75, 78, 79, 80, 82, 83, 85, 85, 87, 88; [117, 122, 127, 129, 132, 146.]

155. Sketches and photographs of Irishmen:—

I. Sketch by Albrecht Dürer in 1521, copied, with permission of the R. I. Archæological Society, from their *Journal* of the year 1877, p. 298. Of this sketch "A Correspondent in Austria" writes in the *Westminster Gazette* of June 1, 1898:—

"Irish history contains many references to 'gallow-glasses,' or native irregulars, the *francs tireurs* or *andarte* of Irish warfare. In *Distinguished Irishmen*, by the Rev. E. Hogan, S.J., I came

* The numbers refer to the pages; the pages in brackets refer particularly to the Irish people of Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim, and the Fews Baronies of Armagh.

upon a notice of Father Walter Talbot—one of the eight of the house of the Lords Talbot de Malahide who entered the Jesuit Order. This Father Walter Talbot became chaplain to an Irish regiment in the Spanish service, which was sent to the Low Countries, where Albrecht Dürer saw the Irish ‘war-men,’ and sketched them. The author added that the sketch ‘is now in Vienna.’ He comments upon the figures, ‘fine, powerfully-built, and formidable-looking fellows, armed with the long sword and gallowglass axe, clad in a mantle of Irish rug, and wearing the Irish glib and moustache, which it was forfeiture to wear at home—not forfeiture only of moustache and glib, but even of the head. Dürer wrote over it: ‘Here go the war-men of Ireland’; or, rather: ‘Also gand dij krigs man in Irlandia hindr engeland.’ Dr. Friedrich Lippmann, Director of the Department of Engravings on Copper in the Berlin Museum, says that the inscription is in Dürer’s own hand. He calls the drawing (evidently correctly) ‘Warriors and Peasants,’ describing the warriors as ‘wearing the costume of the fighting men of the Middle Ages.’ Dürer wrote, too, above the less-imposing figures (the man in the ‘Irish rug’ mantle and the two ‘gossoons’): ‘Also gend dij pawern in Irlandyen.’ ‘Pawern’ suggests an old-time connexion between *poor* and ‘peasants,’

i.e., Bauern, which the centuries have left intact. The untrammelled freedom of Dürer's spelling comes out strongly, even in these words from his pen. 'Ireland, *behind* England,' is a quaint geographical note of the great master's making!

"On the top of the sheet is Dürer's *true* monogram. There are two reproductions of this sketch in the *Zeichnungen von Albrecht Dürer*, one in colour, one plain. Dr. F. Lippmann certifies to the accuracy of the copies, except in the matter of some shades of red and blue, which are printed a little lighter than the original colours. With the plain version he has absolutely no fault to find. The publisher permits the reproduction of this leaf out of a most precious book—a leaf that must deeply interest Irish people who have thought of a journey to Vienna as the only means of satisfying their legitimate curiosity respecting men of their race, who left an honoured name in their own land, but no portraits—nothing to tell of their 'outward figure and presentment.' 'How can that be?' asked a learned young custodian in the Director's office of the Vienna Museum. Then I told him how it had long been a punishable offence for 'the mere Irishry' to keep books and documents. 'But you have priceless manuscripts illuminated,' he still objected. 'Yes, the *Book of Kells*, which has been

called the Parthenon of Celtic Art, still exists,' I admitted, 'and Oxford has Erse MSS.' 'But to be sure,' he assented eagerly, 'and San Gallen, in Switzerland, has some; and North Italian Celtic foundations.' All quite true; but pictures of our *andarte*, our gallowglasses, were not likely to be treasured by the librarians of the dominant class in Ireland; and, if found in the keeping of those who would have cherished them, portraits of our irregulars would have been highly compromising possessions. There are old books still in Ireland that have been *buried* so often (lest they should be seized in accordance with the law), that they are now absolutely valueless, except as *pièces de conviction* in our suit against our rulers.

"As Dürer was above all things accurate, we Irish may take it that we have from his hand a faithful likeness of our gallowglasses.

"The original is no longer in Vienna. The Berlin Museum bought it some time ago, a fact which added not a little labour to my search.

"The 'pawern' could, perhaps, be matched to-day in Ireland, and the two 'krigs man' are so like living Irishmen, that they might serve as their portraits in fancy dress—so true is it that 'none but the Jews are so tenacious of racial characteris-

tics as are the Irish.' Is there not a great deal of Irish history in Dürer's sketch?"

II. This is from a photograph of young North-Mayo harvesters, taken by Dr. Browne.

III. Is from a photograph of poor North-Mayo people, taken by Dr. Browne.

IV. Is from a photograph of a Mayo fisherman and his mother, taken by Dr. Browne.

V. There are other pictures of North Mayo peasants which I have seen, but cannot give here:—1st. Fifty photographs containing about 200 figures by my friend, Charles R. Browne, M.D., Member of the Ethnographic Survey Committee of the British Association; 2nd. A group of nine photographed by a French Jesuit, *Perè Mallac*, referred to at p. 95 of this book; 3rd. A group of five, photographed by Mr. Prescott, optician, of Dublin; 4th. About twelve photographs reproduced in "*The Starving West*," published by the Dublin Mansion House Committee for the Relief of Distress; 5th. Several photographs of Sligo peasants published by Mr. Welch, photographer, of Belfast. Now these 250 portraits are documents of the first importance—they confirm the testimony of Dr. Browne, given at pp. 118-124 above; and not one of them suggests, even remotely, the Irish-

man of *Punch*, or of the *Dublin University Magazine*.

VI. There are fourteen portraits, "drawn from life" by John M'Elheran, M.R.C.S.E., of the Connacht fisherman of the Claddagh, Galway, in vol. 2 of the *Ulster Journal of Archæology*, pp. 160, 161. In his article the author says—"The people of the Claddagh are, in my opinion, purely Irish, of the most ancient Celtic type." The names of the men portrayed are Irish, except that of Barrett. "They are not Spanish, as anyone might see at a glance, and it is astonishing to me how the theory of their Spanish origin could have kept ground so long; their physique is exactly the same as that of the peasantry in Connemara and Clare. Like the Celtic peasantry of the South (of Ireland), generally they have variety of complexion, although the features are of the same type." All are portraits of comely men, except one—which is an anonymous Arran man "of Danish type;" five have slightly Roman noses, five Grecian, four slightly "Celestial."

VII. A confirmation of the fine form attributed to the Irishmen of old, by English and other foreign writers, may be found in the photographs:—1st. Of the two tug-of-war teams of the Dublin Metropolitan Police; 2nd. Of that of the Belfast Constabulary (mostly Munster men); and, perhaps, 3rd.

Of that of the Govan Police, who, as descendants of the old Scots or Irish, may be taken as representatives of the old Irish.

VIII. Ihon Derricke in 1581 published his *Image of Irelande*, to which he appended twelve wood-cut illustrations, of which ten contain ninety pictures of the Irish Woodkerne, or "Wilde Men in Ireland." The author, though a reckless libeller of Irishmen in verse and prose, yet writes nothing against their physique, and in his wood-cuts portrays them as fine looking men. See 3rd Edition, printed by Black, of Edinburgh, in 1883.



REFERENCES TO THE AUTHORITIES QUOTED IN THIS BOOK.

N.B.—The numbers refer to the paragraphs.

PAGE 33. § 1. Gerald de Barry's "*Topographia Hibernica*." Dist. III., Cap. X., p. 149 of Dymmok's Edition; Cf. Turner's "*History of England*," 3rd Ed., Vol. IV., p. 282.

§ 2. Ussher's Works, Vol. VI., p. 272, "*Populus Magnus est sicut gigantes, proceri homines stature et fortissimi, pertissimi jaculandi sagittas, et strenuissimi milites in bello.*"

3. "*Angus Oge MacDonnell.*" See Archdall's *Peerage*, Vol. VII., p. 111.

4. "*Histoire du Roi d'Angleterre*," quoted in "*Ulster Journal of Archæology*," Vol. VI., p. 196, from "*Archæologia*," XX., p. 40.

5. Froissart's "*Chronicles*," p. 429 of Routledge's Edition.

7. Sentleiger: "*State Papers of Ireland*," Vol. III., p. 3, p. 444, Ed., London, 1834.

8. Good, quoted in Camden's "*Britannia*," Vol. III., p. 658, Ed., 1789.

9. Nowel's description of the "*Power of Irishmen*": a MS. of the British Museum, published by me in the *Irish Ecclesiastical Record* of Dec., 1886.

10. Campion's "*History of Ireland*," p. 24, of Edition, 1809.

13. Pelham's Letter to the "*Privy Council in England*"; from Clonmel, February, 1580. "*Cal. of State Papers.*"

14. A Spaniard's Report to the Holy See in 1581, given in Cardinal Moran's "Archbishops of Dublin," p. 91.

15. "An Irish Bishop." Cardinal Moran's "Archbishops of Dublin," p. 96.

16. Captain Cuellar's Narrative, translated by Professor O'Reilly in "Proceedings of the R. I. Academy," 3rd Series, Vol. III., p. 208.

17. Payne's "Briefe Description of Ireland," published in 1589; re-edited in 1841 for the Irish Archæological Society in "Tracts relating to Ireland," pp. 3, 4.

18. Captain Dawtry's Letter to Cecil, in "Calendar of Hatfield Manuscripts," Vol. IV., p. 367.

19. Camden's "Britannia," Ed. 1789, Vol. III., pp. 464, 658. Hadrian Junius, p. 34, is translated in Gough's Version of Camden's "Britannia":—

"Called forth to war, at my supreme command,
The dreadful forms of fleetest warriors stand."

20. Spencer's "View of the State of Ireland," p. 116, Edition 1809; at p. 128 he says, "The Irish were come of as mighty a race as the world ever brought forth."

21. John Dymmok's "Treatise of Ireland." "Tracts relating to Ireland," Vol. II., p. 6; edited by the Irish Archæological Society.

22. "English State Papers." This is a letter from the Lord Deputy to Walsingham; the true date is 1589. See my "Description of Ireland in 1598," p. 141.

23. The Earl of Essex's Letter to Queen Elizabeth in 1598, quoted in Moryson's "Itinerary," Part II., p. 36.

24. Sir Walter Raleigh's "Miscellaneous Works," Vol. III., p. 304.

27. Lombard's "Commentarius de Regno Hiberniæ," 2nd Edition, p. 54, or Chapter 12 of 1st Edition.

28. Fynes Moryson's "Itinerary," Part III., pp. 159, 160, 181.

29. Cardinal Bentivoglio. I copied this from his Letter dated 1609, in one of the Volumes of Letters of the "Nunziatura di Fiandra," in the Secret Archives of the Vatican.

30. Captain Rich's "Description of Ireland," ed. in London, 1610; there is a copy of it in Trinity College, Dublin.

31. Sir John Davis' "Historical Tracts," Ed. 1787, p. 2.

32. Lord Bacon's "Works," Vol. III., p. 321.

33. Carew, in "Calendar of Carew Papers," p. 306, year 1614.

34. Prendergast's "Cromwellian Settlement of Ireland," Ed. 1865, p. 22; MS. F. 3, 16, Trin. Coll., Dublin.

35. FitzSimon's "Diary of the Bohemian Campaign of 1620," published in Latin in 1621; an abridged translation was given by me in "The Life, Letters and Diary of Father Henry FitzSimon."

36. Owen Roe O'Neill; the extract is from Webb's "Compendium of Irish Biography."

37. Sir Warham St. Leger See Carte, quoted in O'Callaghan's "Macariæ Excidium," p. 235, ed. 1850.

38. Massari's and Malasana's Letters of Oct. 19, 1645, and Nov. 10, 1645, given in full in Meehan's "Franciscan Monasteries and the Irish Hierarchy in the 17th Century," pp. 467, 474. The originals run thus:—"Sunt homines aspectu pulcro, robore in-

credibili, cursores velocissimi; nullum non ferunt incommodum patientia inenarrabili; omnes se armis dederunt, nunc potissimum cum bello implicantur. Qui literis operam navant evadunt doctissimi, quales hic non desunt in omni scientia et professione. Mulieres supra miraculum præcellunt decore et pulcritudine, et ita venustatem conjungunt cum singulari modestia atque devotione, ut maximum etiam animi candorem exerceant, conversantes cum omnibus ubique et absque ulla suspitione aut zelotypia. (He then describes their graceful raiment). Sunt fecundissimæ, et omnes matrimonio conjunctæ multis beantur liberis, nec desunt plures quibus superstites sunt triginta, sed earum, quibus quindecim vel viginti supersunt, numerus est infinitus. Suntque omnes idigenæ pulcri, statura magna et robusti, plerique capillis flavis, et pelle alba et rubicunda."

Malasana writes:—"Sono gli nomini di bello aspetto e di robustezza incredibile; sono valorosi corridori e sopportano ogni incommodo con prontezza inenarrabile . . . Le donne passano il segno in grandezza e bellezza, ed avendo accompagnata colla leggiadria una gran modestia e divozione, dimostrando ancora una grandissima semplicità, conversando con tutti in tutti luoghi senza alcuno sospetto o gelosia; e vestano abiti diversi dai nostri . . . quasi al costume dei Greci, facendo apparire in questo modo la loro natural bellezza. Sono fecondissime, poiche quasi tutte maritandosi fanno molti figli, e ve ne sono molte che ne hanno fino a 30 vivi; ma di quelle che ne hanno 15 e 20 vene un numero infinito; et tutti sono belli, di grandi statura, e robusti, essendo la maggior parte biondi, e di carnagione bianca e rossa."

39. Rinuccini's "Nunziata in Irlanda," p. 392, — "Pare che la natura aiuti fra gli Irlandesi la dissensione dei costumi; essendo questi moderni (Norman-Irish or Anglo-Irish) per lo piu di non alta statura, vivaci di spirito, e sottilissimi d'ingegno; ma gli antichi (the Irish Gaels) sono grandi di corpo, semplici, son rozzi nel vivere e piu presto di tarda apprensione e minore disinvoltura nei negoziati; guardansi pertanto tutti due con occhi lividi, e stanno sempre temendo l'accrescimento gli uni degli altri."

40. Dynely's "Tour in Ireland," published in the "Journal of Archæol. Soc. of Ireland."

41. Dr. John Lynch in his "Cambrensis Eversus," Vol. III., p. 239, 2d. Edition of 1851-2.

42. Sir William Petty's "Political Anatomy of Ireland," Chapter XII.

43. D'Avaux and Desgrigny quoted in Lord Macaulay's "History of England," Vol. III., pp. 417, 586, 623.

44. Dean Swift's "Works," Vol. VIII., pp. 135, 353; Vol. XII., p. 257.

Mr. Lecky's "Leaders of Public Opinion in Ireland," p. 33, Ed. 1871.

45. Dr. Samuel Madden's "Reflections Proper for the Gentlemen of Ireland," pp. 74, 75, Ed. 1816.

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47. Lord Macartney: quoted by George Lewis Smith in "Ireland Historical and Statistical," Vol. III., p. 27.

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49. Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations," p. 222, Edition 1806.

50. Parliamentary Committee of 1779.

51. Arthur Young's "Tour in Ireland in 1780," Vol. II., pp. 107, 33; Appendix, pp. 87, 114.

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53. The speeches of Foster, Ponsonby, and Fox are in "Cobbett's Parliamentary Debates," under date, May 13, 1805.

55. Newenham "On the population of Ireland," p. 132-3.

56. Bulwer-Lytton's "England and the English," Vol. I., p. 87.

57. Grattan's "Speeches," Edited by his son, Vol. III., pp. 46, 255; "Cobbett's Parliamentary Debates," Vol. 20, columns 385-6.

57. General Mathew's Speech in "Cobbett's Parliamentary Debates," Vol. 20, columns 409, 410.

57. Admiral Lord Charles Beresford in "Pictorial Library," Vol. II., p. 10.

58. Hutchinson, Holland, and Russell, in "Cobbett's Parliamentary Debates," year 1807.

62. Croker's "Sketches of the South of Ireland," p. 30.

63. Sir J. Carr's "The Stranger in Ireland," pp. 249, 410.

64. Hutton's "Statistical Survey of the Co. of Clare," p. 168.

65. Newenham's "View of Ireland," p. 5.

66. Walter Scott's "Vision of Roderick," Stanza LX.

67. Dewar's "Observations on Ireland," p. 46.

68. Wakefield's "Ireland, Political and Statistical," Vol. I., p. 223.

69. Curwen's "Letters from Ireland," Vol. II., p. 276.

70. Chalmers' quoted in Mr. Gladstone's Speech at Glasgow, on 22nd June, 1886.

71. Sydney Smith: "Works," p. 305; also in *Edinburgh Review*, 1820.

72. Kitson Cromwell's "Tours in Ireland," Vol. I., p. 19.

73. George Petrie, quoted in "Life of George Petrie," by Dr. William Stokes, pp. 44 and seq.

74. Sir Walter Scott's Letter of October, 1825, in Lockhart's "Memoirs of Sir Walter Scott."

75. Sir Harry Inglis in "Tour in Ireland," p. 12, Edition 1836.

76. Writer in *Dublin University Magazine* for Dec., 1836, p. 675.

77. *British and Foreign Review* of October, 1837. p. 368.

78. De Beaumont, in *L' Irlande Politique*, Vol. I., p. 342.

79. Dr. Arnold's "History of Rome," Vol. I., p. 531, of 5th Edition.

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83. George Lewis Smith in "Ireland Historical and Statistical," Vol. III., pp. 14, 19.

84. The Rev. E. Marcus Dill, M.A., M.D., in "Ireland's Miseries: the Grand Cause and Cure," p. 43, ed. 1852.

85. Frederick Lucas's Letter to Mr. Riethmüller, in "Life of Frederick Lucas," Vol. II., p. 3.

86. De Lasteyrie in *Revue des Deux Mondes*, Dec. 15, 1854.

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98. Letter of the *Times'* Correspondent, 13 Dec., 1862.

99 to 113. Letters of Major Leech, Dr. Sullivan, Colonel Cooper, Colonel Wood-Martin, Colonel Chichester, Colonel Blake, the Marquis of Sligo, the Earl of Granard, Sir Andrew Reed, Lord Walter Fitzgerald; William E. O'Shea, James W. Raleigh, Loftus Bushe Fox, John Collier, W. F. Wakeman, Thomas Tighe, Esquires.

114 to 116. John MacCluskey, Charles Corbett, C.E.; John Johnston.

117 to 129. Rev. R. Hayes, Mr. J. King, Mr. Dorman, Mr. Reid; Most Rev. Dr. Conway; Father O'Reilly, Rev. J. Costelloe, Rev. H. Hewson, Canon Bourke, Most Rev. Dr. Healy, Canon Monaghan, Rev. J. Grimes, Rev. Dr. MacDonald.

130. De Latocnaye's "Rambles in Ireland" in 1797, Vol. II., pp. 14, 24, 41.

131. McParlan's "Statistical Survey of Mayo," in 1801, p. 22.

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132. Rev. A. Atkinson's "Irish Tourist." Vol. I., pp. 40, 41.

133. George Petrie, quoted in "Life of George Petrie," by Dr. William Stokes, pp. 46 to 61, 382.

134. Maxwell's "Wild Sports of the West," pp. 312-316.

135. Knight's "Erris and the Western Highlands," Edited in 1836, pp. 105, 112, 120, 123.

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137. Rev. Cæsar Otway's "Sketches in Erris and Tyrawly," pp. 167, 346, 52; his "Tour in Con-naught," p. 352.

138. Dr. Arnold's "History of Rome." Edition the 5th. Vol. I., p. 531.

139. Le Cte. Joseph D'Avèze's "Tour en Irlande" in 1843, p. 369.

140. Grant's "Impressions of Ireland" in 1844. Vol. II., p. 151.

141. Sir Samuel Ferguson's "Sketch of the South Island of Aran," in 1853, p. 90.

142. Dr. Beddoe's "Races of Britain," and "Notes taken on his visit to Aran;" quoted by Mr. Haddon and Dr. Browne, at p. 780 of "Ethnography of the Aran Islands" in "Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy," 3rd Series, Vol. II., No. 5.

143. Coulter's "West of Ireland," p. 79; edited in 1862.

144. Sir William Wilde's "Account of Lough Corrib in 1872," p. 285.

145. M. Henri Martin, in "British Association Report for 1878," p. 587; "Les Races Anciennes de l'Irlande."

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147. Dr. C. R. Browne, M.D.:—I. "Ethnography of the Mullet, Inniskea, and Portacloy," p. 591 of "Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy," 3rd Series, Vol. III., No. 4. II. "Ethnography of Ballycroy, Co. Mayo," read 11th May, 1896, published in the "Academy's Proceedings," p. 77. III. "Ethnography of Innisturk and Clare Island, Co. Mayo;" it is not yet published, but this learned gentleman who has charge of the local Ethnography Survey of Ireland gave me this brief extract.

148. Marie-Anne de Bovet's "Trois Mois en Irlande," p. 340, published at Paris in 1891, by the Librairie Hachette et Cie.

149. Oral evidence of captains of steamers, mates.

150. Sir John Lentaigne; Mr. Thomas Burke, Under-Secretary for Ireland; Sir William Wilde.

Carmen, railway officials, policemen; Rev. Maxwell Close, Treasurer of the Royal Irish Academy (whose opinion on that or anything else I value very much); Mr. Larmenie.

Messrs. Bermingham and Morris; Mr. Delany.

Metropolitan Police; Royal Irish Constabulary and many other witnesses.

151-3. Evidence of the French Eagles, and 8th, 9th, 2nd, 4th, and 36th French regiments. See Napier's "Peninsular War," Edition of 1829; Vol. III., pp. 444, 516; Vol. V., pp. 56, 456, 465; Vol. II., p. 404. Clinton, Lord Londonderry, and others on that war; and Maxwell's "Life of Wellington;" Lieutenant W. Grattan's "Adventures of the Connaught Rangers," 4 volumes.

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